

Insurance scam OAP admits to faking his own death

By Chris Britcher
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A PENSIONER from Petham has pleaded guilty to faking his own death in a bid to cash in on an insurance pay-out.

Anthony McElean, 66, of Swarling Hill Road, had concocted an elaborate ruse where he pretended to be his wife, claiming he had died following a road smash in Honduras on December 6, 2009.

He claimed he had been struck by a produce truck while changing a tyre and died from his injuries.

Kent Police's investigation team were alerted to the fraudulent activity by the Insurance Fraud Bureau after his insurance company became suspi-

cious. Officers arrested him and found him in possession of a credit card in the name of Green.

Officers discovered McElean not only faked his own death to claim insurance, but had been claiming pensions relating to his father-in-law from a previous marriage, who had died in March 2007. Appearing at Canterbury Crown Court, he also admitted to claiming pensions relating to someone else.

McElean had been charged with fraudulently making a claim to ACE European insurance for death benefit of £520,000, fraudulently obtaining a passport and two counts of theft in claiming pensions of £40,658 and £27,000.

He will be sentenced next month.



Big acts sign up for Lounge on the Farm

FULL STORY - SEE INSIDE

LITERATURE

Kids' laureate steps down

CHILDREN should 'cherish their creativity' and not lose sight of it as they grow older, the outgoing children's laureate said. Anthony Browne, 64, from Canterbury stepped down from the prestigious role after a two-year stint. He is replaced by The Gruffalo author Julia Donaldson. **PAGE 16**

HOUSING

Village boost for housing

VILLAGERS forced to leave their family roots due to soaring house prices have been thrown a lifeline through a new affordable housing development. It means residents who grew up there but feared being unable to afford to stay there, will be able to remain in the community. **PAGE 3**

DEATH

Town mourns loss of actor

ONE of Britain's leading comedy actors - and a familiar face on our screens during the 1970s and 80s, has died. Donald Hewlett was best known for his role in It Ain't Half Hot Mum and, more recently You Rang M'Lord? He lived in Whitstable for many years, before moving to Fulham. **PAGE 3**

CHARITY

Survivor rides off for cancer

BRAVE Rob Waite from Herne Bay has set off on a charity bike ride from John O'Groats to Land's End. Mr Waite, 38, has survived testicular cancer and is taking part in the challenge to raise money to increase awareness of the potential killer illness. **PAGE 3**

CARE

Eight re-homed amid fears of abuse and neglect at home

A CARE home in Herne Bay has been closed down and its residents moved out amid concerns of neglect and abuse.

The Care Quality Commission (CQC) took the urgent legal action to "protect the safety and welfare of residents" at Sea View Lodge.

Canterbury magistrates gave the okay to cancel the registration of the care home in Central Parade, mean-

ing owners Nelofa Sheikh and Shahid Sheikh can no longer offer care services at the home.

The pair strongly deny the allegations and say they are taking legal advice.

Kent County Council says it has identified alternative placements for the remaining eight people aged between 25 and 80 who were living at the home.

Roxy Boyce, regional director for CQC

in the South East, said: "We have acted quickly to protect the safety and welfare of people at Sea View Lodge. All services must meet essential standards of care and we take action where services are failing people.

"Closing a care home is not a decision taken lightly. These are places where people live and we have to weigh up the potential impact on residents. In some

cases, moving frail and vulnerable people can cause more harm than good.

"However, it became clear that the only way to properly protect residents at Sea View Lodge was to close the home immediately, and move residents to where care is of a better standard."

The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of all health and adult social care in England.

TUITION FEES

Students to pay almost £9,000 for place at UCA

GOVERNMENT funding cuts have been blamed for the University for the Creative Arts' decision to increase tuition fees to just under the £9,000 maximum.

UCA, which has campuses in Canterbury, Maidstone and Rochester, says it must rely on the higher charges to cover a 7.8 per cent reduction in the amount of money it receives from the public purse.

Benjo Taylor is chairman of trustees at the university's students' union. He said: "This was not unexpected considering the reckless manner in which the Coalition has decided to attack funding on higher education institutions, particularly those specialising in creative arts."

"Nevertheless, we are disappointed the fees have had to be set at such a high level to maintain the existing quality of education. The Coalition is attacking education and it is unacceptable to risk the fate of both an incredibly lucrative UK industry and the future of thousands."

From next year students on undergraduate courses at UCA will be charged £8,500 per year, but

the money does not have to be paid until the individual concerned has completed their degree and is earning more than £21,000.

The University of Kent announced last April that it plans to raise tuition fees to the maximum £9,000.

Canterbury Christ Church University and the University of Greenwich, which has a campus in Medway, are yet to announce how much they plan to charge.

UCA deputy vice-chancellor Prof Mark Hunt said: "Student fees will provide our main source of funding for teaching and investing in the facilities needed to provide students with a high quality creative arts education. Many distinguished practitioners began their careers at UCA including Karen Millen, Zandra Rhodes and Tracey Emin."

Meanwhile, MidKent College has made a formal offer to buy UCA's Maidstone campus on Oakwood Park as part of a £23 million expansion plan.

A decision on the bid is expected to be made when UCA governors meet next month.

Fast rail freight answer to Operation Stack nightmare

By Steve Knight

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THOUSANDS of lorries could be taken off Kent's roads and onto high-speed freight trains in a bid to ease pressure off the county's congested network.

Ongoing trials by High Speed 1 Ltd (HS1) and rail-freight operator DB Schenker Rail have been declared an outstanding success, with hopes a permanent 24-hour system could be introduced by the end of the year.

The move would mean a welcome break for the county's motorists and businesses, which suffer during times of major congestion, particularly when Operation Stack is implemented.

Latest figures from the Department for Transport showed 77 per cent of UK-registered lorries and 88 per cent of foreign lorries travelling from the Continent came through the Port of Dover or Channel Tunnel in 2009. Most head onto the M2 or M20.

A spokesman from HS1 said the move would see lorries entering Britain on specialist freight trains through the Channel Tunnel which would link to the high-speed line to St Pancras, with potential drop-off points at Ebbsfleet and Dagenham.

"Freight that would usually travel on Kent's roads would instead travel on trains which would help tackle congestion. This is also a much greener way," he said. "We know there is a demand, we want to provide a connection with mainland Europe for freight and passenger operators."

Concerns over noise, as the trains would mainly run at night, were allayed by HS1.



NO GO AREA: When lorries are parked on the M20 for Operation Stack, a large proportion of the county's roads become congested as a result. High-speed freight trains could help ease the pressure on our roads.

"We have had no complaints during the trials so far. Obviously trains running that fast are going to make some noise, but this is something we have looked at carefully."

Kent businesses have welcomed the move because the misery of Operation Stack has caused significant losses in trade and revenue over the years. It involves parking lorries on the M20 between junctions 11 (Hythe) and 12 (Cheriton), with cars directed along the A20.

During severe disruption of cross-Channel travel, phase two is implemented which sees lorries also parked between junction eight (Maidstone) and junction nine (Ashford).

It causes the roads around Dover, Shepway and Ashford to become gridlocked, which has led to a subsequent loss of business for local firms.

Delays also cost the UK's haulage companies £1 million a day. Development manager of Kent's Federation of Small Business (FSB), Andrew Aves, said the organisation was

pleased with the move by HS1.

"We welcome anything that reduces congestion where vehicles and drivers are held up in traffic," he said. "FSB research undertaken a couple of years ago revealed that small business dissatisfaction with the road infrastructure, loss of man hours, and sales is significantly greater in Kent than for the rest of the country."

In the study, 10 per cent of the county's members admitted to losing more than £5,000 per year as a result of congestion, with more than 40 per cent saying they were fed up with the road network.

Problems with Operation Stack pushed KCC to look at ways of moving lorries off the roads to reduce congestion, with plans for a lorry park at Aldington near Sellindge proposed three years ago.

A high-level summit is being held in Shepway next month involving MPs, Kent Police, district and county councillors, and ferry companies to discuss the issue.

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EDUCATION

Vulnerable are most likely to be expelled

CHILDREN suffering with learning difficulties are being "let down" by Kent schools judging by the worrying proportion of expelled pupils who have special educational needs (SEN).

Figures released under the Freedom of Information Act reveal that of 168 secondary school youngsters who were permanently excluded in the county last year, more than half had been assessed as needing close attention due to learning problems such as autism and dyslexia.

The situation is not much better at primary school level, with 13 of 35 expelled children in 2009-10 having statements of special edu-

cational need, meaning they require the most support of all such pupils.

Government policy says schools should avoid expelling statemented pupils "other than in the most exceptional circumstances", but critics argue the guidance is frequently ignored.

Independent education adviser Peter Read, who provided this newspaper with the figures, said education chiefs should be doing more to ensure the most vulnerable children are allowed to stay in school.

"The figures suggest some schools have not gone all the way to prevent exclusion and should be trying harder," he said. "KCC

should be offering more support to schools, but instead vulnerable children are being let down."

According to the Lamb Inquiry report of August last year, children with special educational needs are eight times more likely than their peers to be expelled from school, with about 70 per cent of permanent exclusions nationally affecting SEN pupils. Exceptional circumstances where expulsion is justified include serious violence, sexual abuse or assault, supply of an illegal drug or carrying an offensive weapon.

In contrast to the Kent expulsion figures, schools under Medway Council did

not expel a single statemented child in 2009/10.

A spokesman explained that was because of a range of strategies including peer mentoring and buddy schemes. Many schools also have a full-time counsellor.

KCC cabinet member for education Cllr Sarah Hohler said: "I have every confidence Kent's head teachers are using exclusions appropriately and fairly."

"Excluding a child or young person is a last resort and tends to be after other preventative options have been exhausted. We monitor trends for exclusions regularly and work with schools to offer any assistance that may be required."

FESTIVAL

More big names for Lounge on the Farm as excitement builds

By Chris Britcher

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ANTICIPATION is building nicely for this year's Lounge on the Farm music festival after nineties sensation Adamski was added to the already star-studded line-up.

The man behind 1990 number one smash Killer – a single which also launched the career of future Grammy and Brit Award winner Seal – will join the three-day festival which takes place in Merton Farm between July 8-10. The dance producer will perform at the new Meadows stage.

He joins the strongest line-up yet for the festival which has seen its reputation considerably enhanced in recent years, gaining good reviews for its blend of live music, comedy and locally produced food and drink, all set within the confines of a working farm.

Other recent additions to the bill announced include Art Brut, Frankmusik and hotly tipped newcomers Friends Electric, who recently played the BBC Introducing stage at Radio 1's Big Weekend.

They join headliners The Streets, Ellie Goulding and Echo & The Bunnymen, along with the likes of Katy B, Graham Coxon, The Vaccines, Cornershop and Everything Everything.

For 24-year-old Miss Goulding, the performance will be a return to her old stomping ground. The Brit Award winner studied drama at the University of Kent.



GROWING GIG: Lounge on the Farm has soared in popularity over recent years, now expanding to accommodate 10,000 fans

One of the most successful Canterbury bands, prog rock legends Caravan have also been confirmed for the festival, with the re-release of the seminal album In the Land of Grey and Pink due this summer. They will play the Meadows stage. They were one of the key movers in the Canterbury Scene musical movement of the 1960s and 70s.

Up to 10,000 music fans will flock to the event after it doubled its capacity from last year as it looks to firmly establish itself as one of the UK's key boutique festivals for the summer.

Meanwhile, the chance for a local act to take to the main stage still remains open through the You Say They Play competition.

Bands based in Kent are performing at a host of showcases at The Farmhouse in Dover Street, with the top three acts winning the most votes online securing a prized slot to open one of the three days.

The remaining showcases take place on June 19 and 26. To vote on the acts visit the website www.yousaytheyplay.co.uk.

FUNDRAISER

Nasty Nick waves off charity hero

BIG Brother star 'Nasty' Nick Bateman was among the well wishers as he joined patients, staff and consultants at BMI The Chaucer Hospital in support of testicular cancer survivor Rob Waite's charity cycle.

Mr Waite, 38, from Herne Bay set off on Saturday to ride from John O'Groats to Land's End in aid of raising awareness of the illness and its symptoms. The ride across Britain is the final challenge of a 12-month campaign to raise funds and awareness for Orchid Male Cancer Charity. Mr Waite was diagnosed with testicular cancer in July 2007 and is now in remission.

DEATH

Town mourns loss of top comedy star

COMEDY star Donald Hewlett, who lived for many years in Whitstable, has died after a short illness in London. He was 90.

He was best known for his role as the laid back Lt-Colonel Charles Reynolds in It Aint Half Hot Mum, the cult BBC series about life in a Far East entertainment unit during World War Two.

Usually in a double act with actor Michael Knowles, one of his last big hits was in the BBC's You Rang M'lord? during the mid 1990s. He lived in Island Wall before moving to Fulham.

FESTIVAL

Tasty treat as the EpiCentre is expanded

WHITSTABLE Oyster Festival organisers have agreed a deal to open up more of the town's harbour to accommodate the EpiCentre food and drink event.

Due to increasing demand, the harbour authorities have given the green light to opening up more of the West Quay area for festival activities - making 20 additional stall spaces for the food and drink event.

Festival director Mair Stratton said: "There has been so much interest in this year's food and drink event that I had to ask the Harbour Master if he could provide some more space for stalls.

"I think it must be a combination of Whitstable's growing reputation for fine food and the success of last year's event."

Some 50,000 people are expected to take to the harbour during the festival's opening weekend of July 23-24, with the oyster procession having to be diverted around the harbour for the first time in its history, in a bid to prevent potential bottlenecks. The food event is free to attend and runs from 10am to 5pm.

HOUSING

Village solution to stop exodus of residents due to high house prices

VILLAGERS forced to leave their family roots due to soaring house prices have been thrown a lifeline through a new affordable housing development.

It means residents unable to afford to live in the picturesque village of Goodnestone, near Canterbury, despite growing up there, will have the chance to remain in the community.

Construction of eight affordable homes begins this Friday.

English Rural Housing Association is providing the homes in partnership with Goodnestone Parish Council and Dover District Council.

Funding has been provided by the Homes and Communities Agency as part of the Government's national affordable housing programme.

Six of the homes will be available for rent and two for shared ownership.

Completion is expected at the start of 2012.

Chairman of Goodnestone Parish Council, Julian Plumptre, said: "The parish council has become increasingly aware that many local households are being pressured into leaving the community due to the high cost of renting or buying on the open market.

"The new affordable homes will help to tackle this problem."

The homes were designed to help households from the village who are unable to afford steep market prices.

An English Rural Housing Association



HOME SWEET HOME: Project to provide Goodnestone with affordable housing

spokesman said: "Goodnestone is like many villages where property prices have continued to rise beyond the reach of local people. The rural backdrop and good transport links have made villages in the area popular with those seeking to take advantage of the perceived benefits of rural living.

"This has impacted on local people, who are pressured to move away from their family roots leaving support networks behind.

"English Rural supports the idea that to remain viable and active rural communities should maintain a mixture of incomes and age groups."

Regional developments manager at English Rural, Alison Thompson, said: "The fact that we are now starting on this site is testament to the commitment and hard work of everyone involved."

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GAS EXPLORATION

Rock doc's warning over gas drill plans

By Marijke Cox

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KENT'S entire water supply could become contaminated if plans to explore for gas lead to controversial 'hydraulic fracking', according to a leading geologist.

Thanet-based Dr Alasdair Bruce said the risks involved with such activity could affect the whole county and also lead to threat of earthquakes.

His warning followed a planning application by Welsh company Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd to drill an exploratory borehole in land at Woodnesborough, near Sandwich.

Although director of the firm Gerwyn Williams stressed it was a simple test of the coal, experts and activists fear the activity will lead to hydraulic fracking if gas is found in shale rock at the site.

The controversial extraction method was recently halted in Lancashire amid concerns it had caused two minor earthquakes in the area.

The process involves firing high-pressure liquid into rocks to force gas out, but it is believed it could activate fault lines.

Folkestone has been hit by two earthquakes in recent years: one in 2007 measuring 4.3 on the Richter scale and a later one in 2009 measuring 2.8.

Dr Bruce said the targeted rock in Woodnesborough sat below an aquifer and above fracture and fault lines.

He said: "The prime issue



FRACKING: Expert fears drilling could contaminate water supply

when I heard of these plans was of the possibility of water contamination. But it's not just contamination of the aquifer above the rock – our supplies in this county are shared around.

"This is a Kent-wide issue, not just something that would impact the immediate area of Deal and Sandwich."

Dr Bruce, who said the firm had chosen the "worst possible site" to carry out tests due to the small amount of clay in east Kent, added: "Fracking underneath the rock could reactivate faults believed to be the cause of the Folkestone earthquakes."

The geologist, who runs environmental consultancy firm Rock Doc Ltd, said although an exploratory borehole would not lead to a major incident, the fracking process could lead

to a health and safety problem.

And Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe said the party believed if gas was found in hard shale rock at the Dover site, the Welsh company could seek to remove it with fracking.

He warned it could lead to earthquakes and contaminate water with methane and hydrochloric acid.

Fracking is banned in South Africa and a major investigation was carried out in America following problems with the method. The French National Assembly's lower house has also voted for a ban.

But Mr Williams of Coastal Oil and Gas Ltd said the public were being misinformed due to the recent earthquakes in Lancashire.

He said: "Shale is absent in Kent, the only type they have is lower limestone shale. We're drilling an exploratory hole to test the coal. This must have happened thousands of times in Kent over the years. As far as everybody's fears are concerned, we wouldn't be able to do anything that isn't safe."

Dover and Deal Tory MP, Charlie Elphicke, said: "This kind of mining can be done safely in a community which still has a lot of experts in mining."

A Kent County Council spokesman said the application is currently only for an exploratory borehole to take samples for investigation.

■ [See yoursandwich.co.uk](http://www.yoursandwich.co.uk) for news and sports.

RENEWABLE ENERGY

Electricity boost as prison turns a blind eye to blades

BLADES will be permitted in prison for the first time when two new wind turbines are built at HMP Standford Hill.

The development at the category D men's jail on the Isle of Sheppey is one of the first commercial-scale wind farms to be approved on public land, and is expected to generate enough electricity to power 2,200 homes.

As part of a renewable energy scheme developed by Partnerships for Renewables (PIR) and supported by the Ministry of Justice, the new turbines will each have a blade length of 41m and stand 121m tall.

PIR chief executive Stephen Ainger said: "Our newly-won consent at Standford Hill is great news as our first successful planning permission for a wind energy development."

"It is also one of the first commercial-scale wind farm consents to be delivered on public sector land in England, and as such represents a major landmark for both the MoJ and the public sector as a whole."



WIND FARM: Turbines will be installed at HMP Standford Hill

Standford Hill is one of three prisons in the village of Eastchurch, alongside the category B/C Elmley and category B Swale-side, which comprise the Sheppey prisons cluster.

The wind turbines will generate about 10 megawatt hours of electricity per year, or about 88 per cent of the cluster's annual electricity requirement.

But the decision to approve the planning application has raised concerns about the impact on wildlife and the danger

the structures might cause to aircraft attempting to land at a nearby airfield.

Eastchurch resident Phil Haynes submitted a 35-page report to Swale council regarding the bird activity in the area, but says his objections were "totally ignored".

The Government is under pressure to embrace wind energy to ensure the UK meets its renewables and emissions targets, amid complaints the planning requirements for wind farms are too obstructive.

Last month the Danish firm Vestas announced it wants to open a wind turbine factory at Sheerness docks, but the deal is reliant on government support for the industry.

Prime Minister David Cameron revealed during Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday that part of the Coalition's reform of the planning system was to speed up the process regarding wind farms.

■ [See Keep Kent Working on p38](http://www.KeepKentWorking.co.uk) for more on the county's wind farms.

POLITICS

Archbishop in Coalition spat

THE Archbishop of Canterbury has attacked the Coalition for "forcing through radical policies for which no-one voted".

In an article for New Statesman magazine, Dr Rowan Williams spoke of his disappointment over proposed NHS reforms and welfare benefits that were not included in either the Conservative or the Liberal Democrat manifestos.

But senior Tory backbencher Roger Gale, MP for Thanet North, said: "The measures Dr Williams has criticised have been considered and ratified – or are in the process of being amended and ratified – by a majority in the House of Commons. That is how our parliamentary process works."

HEALTH

Head and neck above the rest

EAST Kent's new specialist head and neck service was officially opened on Friday.

The service includes maxillofacial surgery for the treatment of head and neck cancer, oral and facial reconstruction, facial deformity and severe facial injuries, and specialist orthodontic and restorative dental services.

A £5 million centre at the William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, contains its own procedure room, maxillofacial laboratory and 3-D imaging technology which is not available at other Kent hospitals.

Day surgery operating and outpatient clinics will continue at Canterbury, Margate and Dover.

SEA RESCUE

Laser attack on helicopter

A CHOPPER called to help a search operation had to be stood down when it was targeted by a laser pointer light late on Monday.

Rescue crews were looking for a person thought to have got into difficulty off the rocks at Copt Point in Folkestone.

The RAF Sea King helicopter arrived to start searching using its infra red camera system in an attempt to identify heat sources, but it was targeted by the laser pointer and had to be withdrawn from the operation.

Despite the setback, Dover's volunteer RNLI lifeboat crew and the emergency towing vessel, Anglian Princess, continued the search but nothing was found.

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ELDERLY CARE

KCC faces 'huge' cash burden if care home company collapses

By Steve Knight

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CONCERNS have been raised about the impact the potential collapse of Southern Cross could have on Kent County Council's finances.

The troubled care home provider announced this week that it plans to cut 3,000 jobs from its workforce of 44,000 as part of desperate attempts to stave off bankruptcy.

In a letter to KCC, Canterbury and Whitstable Tory MP Julian Brazier said the possible death of the firm – which runs 10 care homes in the county – could place a "huge burden" on the council's adult social services budget.

He wrote: "I am extremely concerned that Southern Cross care homes are on the verge of financial collapse, potentially leaving hundreds of elderly and vulnerable people facing a very uncertain future.

"I am aware the company is currently trying to stave off collapse by restructuring its finances but, should the worst happen, this would obviously place a huge burden on your (adult social services) department and budgets.

"I would therefore be very grateful if you could let me know what contingency plans you are making and what will happen to the homes and their residents in the event that Southern Cross' restructuring exercise is unsuccessful."



UNCERTAIN: Hundreds of local elderly people would be put at risk should Southern Cross fail

Mr Brazier added afterwards: "I sincerely hope Southern Cross will manage to put its affairs in order so people in their homes will not face a disruptive and upsetting change of circumstances.

"I am seeking assurance, however, that the county council will be able to step into the breach should the company collapse entirely."

Southern Cross currently spends about £180 million a year in rent payments for its 750 homes across the UK, but last month it reported half-year losses of £311m and warned it was in a "critical financial condition".

KCC pays about £2m a year to fund the care of 85 elderly people living in five of the homes: Elvy Court in Sittingbourne; Highfield in Canterbury; Kingsfield in Faversham; and Fairfield Manor and Woodlands, both in Broadstairs.

Southern Cross' five remaining Kent homes are Copper Beeches in Rochester; Frindsbury Hall in Strood; Adelaide in Bexleyheath; and Lauriston House and St Raphael's, both in Bromley.

Cllr Graham Gibbens, cabinet member for adult social care at KCC, said he understood how nervous and concerned residents may be regarding the firm's financial plight.

He added: "Staff within our adult social care team are working with Southern Cross and with all care providers to ensure services are being maintained to the highest quality.

"It's not just our 85 people. There are a further 100-plus people (in Kent) who are in Southern Cross homes and we want to ensure, should Southern Cross go into administration, that we will work with the administrator.

"We will work together with the NHS to ensure the service continues and is maintained to a high standard."

EATING OUT

Great starter for new restaurant

A PACKED launch party on Tuesday evening heralded the arrival of the county's latest restaurant and bar to be set up by a celebrity chef.

Rocksalt is the creation of chef Mark Sargeant, pictured, and business partner Josh De Haan, and it is hoped its establishment by Folkestone harbour will help turn around the fortunes of the run-down area of the town.

Building work on the restaurant was done by Canterbury-based Caray Construction.

Sargeant made his name through 13 years working with perhaps the most famous of all celebrity chefs, Gordon Ramsay. From 2001-8, he was head chef in Claridge's main restaurant, run by Ramsay.

In 2009, Sargeant became creative director at The Swan Collection, which runs The Swan at West Malling, Sargeant's home town, but now he is setting out on his first sole venture.

"How my life has turned around," he told KoS. "Thirteen years in London working for Gordon Ramsay and now I'm living by the sea – who wouldn't want to live by the sea?"

Speaking later to the crowd, he said: "Part of the ethos here is to use as much local produce and local business as possible – all those buzz words you hear in London, but in the countryside it really means something."



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ENVIRONMENT

Lack of green spaces causing urban heatwave



By Steve Knight

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URBAN areas are getting hotter in Kent due to an "erosion" of playing fields, gardens and other green spaces.

According to a report by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), temperatures in built-up areas are currently up to six degrees higher than in rural areas and will continue to rise as a result of climate change.

The organisation says more needs to be done to alleviate the problem, such as increasing the amount of green space in town centres and planting vegetation on roofs and walls.

"While much of Kent is rural and there are relatively few large towns or cities, many of its residents work or live in urban environments," said Paul Collins, chairman of the RICS Green Infrastructure working group.

"By designing in open green space, neighbourhoods can be improved and it should help to decrease the urban tempera-

ture increases that are likely in the future.

"It is particularly important in Kent towns where green space is being eroded, as playing fields and gardens increasingly make way for roads and new developments."

Current climate change predictions suggest that summer temperatures in the UK may rise by up to 3.5 degrees by 2050, with urban areas particularly susceptible.

However, the RICS report says the impact of the 'urban heat island effect' could be reduced by as much as 2.5 degrees by planting more vegetation.

It also promotes the increase of green space in preventing flooding, improving air quality, reducing noise and supporting biodiversity.

The addition of vegetation and plant matter to a building's roof can also help moderate its internal climate, thereby reducing a business' running costs.

Kent Green Party spokesman Steve Dawe said there was an enormous variation in the amount of green spaces

available across the county's town centres.

"Ashford has a significant green corridor around the river but others are very built up leaving very little green space, and Canterbury is an example of that," he said.

"Medway suffers from a lack of green space too, and getting rid of lots of trees to clear space for a new bus station in Chatham hasn't helped.

"But given the extreme reductions in council spending over the years, it's difficult to

see how they're going to afford to create new green spaces.

"The principle is right but the best thing we can do to tackle urban warming quickly and easily is to improve the energy efficiency of buildings in built-up areas."

HOT TOPIC: The loss of lawns and greenery in gardens has helped make towns warmer



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WORLD WAR TWO

Tunnels into the past relive the hell of Operation Dynamo

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A NEW visitor attraction has opened in the tunnels under Dover Castle that recreates the drama of the World War Two evacuation of Dunkirk in the very rooms where it was masterminded.

Using state-of-the-art image projection, and original newsreel and footage, it shows how what Sir Winston Churchill called a "miracle of deliverance" was achieved when 338,000 British and French troops were plucked from under the guns of the Nazis in 1940.

As well as the Royal Navy, an armada of volunteers sailed their trawlers, pleasure craft and paddle steamers across the Channel into the inferno of the French port.

Operation Dynamo, as it was code-named, was overseen by Vice Admiral Sir Bertram Home Ramsay who had realised the strategic importance of the tunnels – parts of which date from the Napoleonic War – when he was part of the Dover Patrol in World War One.

The new displays include moving images and sound which recreate the beaches under attack. Destroyers are seen moving into shore while the belea-



guered soldiers fire at German aircraft as they scream overhead.

One Messerschmitt 110 fighter bomber is seen to crash in flames while destroyers take hits from exploding bombs, and the famous Little Ships perform their heroics.

Dialogue from soldiers is broadcast amidst the sounds of warfare as the

timeline unfolds with the action projected onto the original tunnel walls.

Other parts of the base are recreated with 1940s telephones, plotting maps, exchanges, and even cutlery, bringing authenticity.

Sir Bertram established the base as the Allies were in full retreat just across the English Channel.

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Pictures: PAUL JERRETT

The Admiral, who was later knighted but died in an aircraft crash at the end of the war, put his organisational skills to good use and established the rooms as the place to oversee operations in the Straits of Dover.

And when the order came to evacuate the Allied troops on May 26, 1940, he said: "I am directing one of the most hazardous operations ever conceived and unless the good God is very kind there will be tragedies attached to it."

Richard Sheen, now 92, worked in the gunnery operations room at Dover. "We could see over the port and it was crammed with little ships and destroyers weaving about," he said. "They had all come to aid in the evacuation."

"The next day, as if by magic, they had all disappeared. They had been ready, ready to go to hell – which is actually what they headed into."

Mr Sheen, who remembers chalking his initials on a wall in the tunnels which had been decorated with soldiers'

graffiti dating back to their first use in 1797, added: "This brings back so many memories – mind you there's a lot more equipment here than there was back then."

Admiral Ramsay's son, Major General Charles Ramsay, said: "It makes me very proud. It is wonderful the way these tunnels have been developed with such hi-tech displays. It really tells people what it was all about."

English Heritage curator Rowena Willard-Wright said: "We want to keep the legacy of Operation Dynamo alive for younger people."

"The experience put visitors on the beaches themselves and we want to pay tribute to the heroism of those at Dunkirk and those who planned and performed the rescue."

■ **To see a video of the displays and interviews with those involved go to www.yourkenttv.co.uk. See www.yourdoover.co.uk for news and sport headlines updated daily.**

LIFE DURING WARTIME:
From left: Richard Sheen worked in the gunnery operations room; one of the war rooms; the historic tunnels date back to the Napoleonic War; Major General Charles Ramsay

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PLANNING BLUEPRINT

'Crazy' consultation over waste dumps and quarries

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

A CONTROVERSIAL document listing almost 100 potential waste dumps and quarries in the county has been criticised for causing people to worry needlessly.

Kent County Council is asking for the public's views on the proposals to help form a 20-year development framework, but none of the locations included in the consultation paper have been vetted for suitability.

The sites, which were all put forward by either businesses or landowners, will only be considered once the consultation period ends on July 26.

"Anyone could suggest something and it would have been put in the plan," said Philip Hobson, chairman of Shoreham Parish Council in Sevenoaks. "I could have put my back garden in there if I'd wanted to because there was no pre-sifting. It's crazy."

One of the 96 potential developments included in the consultation is for a mineral extraction site just a few hundred yards from the centre of Shoreham.

Cllr Hobson said it was unlikely the



ANYWHERE: As the sites listed were 'unsifted' any location, including back gardens, could apparently be named

proposal would ever see the light of day, but that villagers were understandably concerned.

He added: "The people of Shoreham are going to be worried until a decision is made, even though it's highly unlikely the plan will reach the next stage."

"I'm confident it will be deemed unsuitable but there's always a possibility it will get through. We're going to have to spend a lot of time and money trying

to knock back this proposal when we wouldn't have had to if somebody had ruled this as a no-goer straight away."

Once the first consultation period has ended, KCC planning officers will sift the sites before putting the most suitable ones out for a second round.

These documents will then be presented at a public examination, with the Planning Inspectorate making recommendations on the final framework.

Cllr David Brazier, deputy cabinet member for environment, highways and waste, is heading up the team preparing the plans.

He said: "We are giving the public the chance to vote and influence plans for the future. This is the Big Society in action. Waste and mineral operations can mean a welcome jobs boost for local communities. At the same time, residents can naturally be concerned about the impact these developments will have on their lives."

"Operators have already told us where they want to work. Now it's time for residents and businesses to have their say."

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HEALTH

NHS chiefs ignoring guidelines over IVF

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

KENT'S health trusts have been criticised in Parliament for offering less than the recommended number of IVF cycles for infertile couples.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excel-

lence (NICE) says eligible couples should be offered up to three cycles of the lab-controlled conception technique, but a report reveals the guidance is being ignored by 73 per cent of the UK's primary care trusts. This includes all three in the county – West Kent, Medway, and Eastern

and Coastal Kent – which only offer two cycles each.

During Prime Minister's Questions on Wednesday, David Cameron urged PCTs to follow the NICE guidelines.

Dartford Tory MP Gareth Johnson is chairman of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Infertility, which published

the report. He said: "One in seven couples suffer from infertility problems and it is also the most common problem women ask about when they visit their GP, other than pregnancy.

"It's the creation of life for many people, and there are thousands of people alive who wouldn't have been if it were not for IVF. The treatment was invented in Britain and so more than any other country we should be championing its use."

IVF (in vitro fertilisation) is a process by which egg cells are fertilised by sperm outside the body before being returned to the woman's uterus. According to NICE, couples should be offered up to three cycles of IVF where the female is aged 23-39 for her to stand a good chance of falling pregnant.

But according to father-of-two Mr Johnson, who has been through IVF treatment with his wife Wendy, a postcode lottery exists due to many NHS trusts offering less than the recommended number of cycles, and some none at all.

A single cycle of IVF, including medicines and con-



should be. The three-cycle figure was not plucked out of the air. It was based on scientific research that recognises there are finite resources but also wants to increase the chances of women falling pregnant."

Late last year both NHS Medway and NHS West Kent asked GPs to stop referring patients for IVF treatment – unless the female partner was approaching the age cut-off date – due to financial pressures.

However, the winter ban has been lifted and both trusts now offer two cycles of treatment.

Nicky Bentley, lead commissioner for assisted conception services for Kent and Medway, spoke on behalf of the county's PCTs. He said: "We want to make sure as many eligible people as possible can receive fertility treatment."

"As demand for health services continues to rise, inevitably, we have to prioritise spending. As a result, it was decided we would offer two cycles of treatment so more people could have access to it, rather than fewer people having more IVF treatment."

TREATMENT: Eligible couples are supposed to be offered up to three rounds of IVF fertility treatment on the NHS

sultations, can typically cost £4,000-£8,000.

Mr Johnson said: "We are calling on all PCTs to follow the NICE guidance because many are not offering what they

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POLITICAL EXPENSES

Red-faced councillors barred after failing to file expenses properly

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

FIFTEEN councillors – including two newly-appointed mayors – were temporarily barred from sitting on their councils after bungling expenses errors.

The red-faced town and parish members were notified by Shepway District Council that they had either failed to submit expenses returns on time or had handed them in incomplete.

The returns were related to expenses for the May 5 council elections.

All 15 members, 13 of whom are Tories, were ruled ineligible to sit on their councils and temporarily barred from attending meetings until the blunders were rectified.

A district council spokesman said the deadline for expenses submissions – which was initially June 3 – had been extended to Friday, June 10.

He said: "It is electoral law that forms have to be submitted on time. It is not a responsive decision made by our electoral service department.

"It doesn't bar them from being a councillor; it bars them from sitting until they submit their returns."

The 15 councillors involved – of which 13 were Tories and two People's First – sit on Folkestone Town Council, Hythe Town Council, and Sandgate Parish Council.

Newly appointed mayors of Folkestone and Hythe – Cllr Sue Wallace and Cllr David Owen

– were among those involved in the blunder.

Cllr Wallace told KoS the matter had now been rectified. "It was more or less an administrative error," she said.

"Some of us hadn't signed a piece of paper within the bundles of paperwork. It wasn't that it was unclear, we probably read it wrong.

"It's just one of those silly things. We hadn't broken the law and it's been sorted out now."

She added: "As long as we signed the forms we were reinstated and able to attend meetings."

While some didn't complete the returns, others failed to hand them in on time and were allowed to submit them by Friday.

But while the members dismissed it as a trivial administrative error, Shepway's Lib Dems berated the councillors for tripping up so soon after the elections.

Spokesman Darren Briddock said "It's amazing that so quickly after being entrusted with running their local councils, 13 Conservatives and both People First councillors in the district have failed to submit a simple set of forms on time and complete, let alone run a council.

"I'm sure the Conservatives will bluster that this is a simple administrative error and easily corrected. It's actually the failure to submit legally required forms completed correctly by a legally defined deadline.

"If you can't stick to the law and get paperwork in on time, you have no business trying to run a council."

Schoolboy stabbed

A TEENAGE boy is recovering in hospital after being stabbed in the leg while on his way home from school. The 14-year-old Northfleet Technology College pupil was attacked in Park Avenue, Northfleet, shortly after 3pm on Tuesday.

His assailant was slim, black, about 16, with short hair and wearing a grey hoody and jeans.

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LITERATURE

Outgoing children's laureate in plea to encourage creativity

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

CHILDREN should "cherish their creativity" and not lose sight of it as they grow older, says Kent's former children's

laureate, Anthony Browne.

His two-year term in the prestigious role came to an end on Tuesday, with Julia Donaldson – author of the best-selling picture book *The Gruffalo* – appointed as his successor.

Illustrator Mr Browne, 64, from Canterbury, told KoS he had thoroughly enjoyed his time as children's laureate and he hoped his countless visits to schools and community groups had left a lasting impression on

the youngsters he spoke to.

"I wanted to encourage children's and adults' creativity by talking about picture books and drawing," he said.

"Everybody can draw or make up a story when they're young, but as we get older we start to say 'no, I can't draw' or 'no, I can't come up with an interesting story'. What happens to us? We should learn to cherish and encourage our creativity."

Born and raised in the village of Hipperholme, West Yorkshire, Mr Browne studied graphic design at Leeds College of Art before going on to illustrate medical textbooks and then greetings cards.

He eventually turned his attention to children's books and in 2000 received the highest international honour for illustration – the Hans Christian Andersen Award – for his services to children's literature.

Mr Browne has written nearly 40 books, including *Gorilla*, *Little Beauty*, *Silly Billy*, *A Walk in*



Picture: LAURENCE CENDROWICZ

ILLUSTRATOR: Former children's laureate, Anthony Browne

the Park, and *Willy the Wimp*.

He said: "It's important to encourage the enjoyment of reading because we get so much out of it. During my time as children's laureate I particularly concentrated on picture books because I felt they were being marginalised."

"Parents are encouraging their children to leave picture books behind earlier and earlier, because they want to help them with their learning. I think that's a mistake, particularly for boys, because as soon as reading stops being enjoyable, the interest goes."

Last month KoS revealed how a growing number of

well-known authors – including eccentric Tunbridge Wells resident Philip Ardagh – had joined together to condemn cuts to school library services.

Just 85 councils out of more than 150 with responsibility for schools run their own dedicated service, providing fresh stocks of books to schools alongside a range of other resources.

Mr Browne said: "It's a terrible shame. We should be encouraging libraries to become more interesting, provide more resources and be more exciting places to be – not the other way around."

■ [See yourcanterbury.co.uk](http://yourcanterbury.co.uk) for news and sports.

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SOCIAL CARE

Elderly could be 'left to languish' by care cuts

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

SEVERE cuts to adult social care funding could be "catastrophic" for millions in later life.

According to a report by Saga, the Folkestone-based organisation for over-50s, the shortfall in spending on care could be much worse than previously thought, with the UK languishing near the bottom of the European league.

The warning comes at a time when Kent County Council is planning to close or rebuild a number of care homes for the elderly in an attempt to save about £2 million, while also increasing its charges for recipients of adult social care.

Saga director-general Dr Ros Altmann said: "Decent care cannot be provided on the cheap but not enough money has been allocated.

"The fact that people live longer has been with us for a long time, but successive governments have failed to prepare properly to address the inevitable consequences.

"Warnings of a pensions crisis were ignored

but are finally being taken seriously with urgent reform. However, no such sense of urgency has been shown when it comes to care.

"If we think the pensions crisis is a huge problem, care could be a major catastrophe as more older people are left to languish with inadequate resources to look after their needs."

KCC lost £58m in government grants this year and must make savings of £95m as a result.

About £3m will come from increased charges for people who access adult social services, including those with mental health problems

who previously did not have to pay.

Dr Altmann said it was not unreasonable to ask some people to pay more if they can afford to, and welcomed the fact people with moderate care needs in Kent will still receive funding.

However, the Saga report shows some 275,000 people in that category elsewhere in the UK have already had financial support cut completely.

Dr Altmann said: "We should be ashamed of the lack of spending on care, which is leading to an undignified way of life for people growing old.

"We need new thinking and there is no time to dither. More older people means more demand for social care, but less funding and local authority cutbacks leave vulnerable voiceless victims at risk.

"It's a time bomb and we must defuse it."

■ Bexley will not be raising the level of need required for residents to qualify for social care and support. Cllr David Hurt said: "We have been able to leave the level of need unchanged because of the massive effort we have made to increase efficiency and make 'back office' savings."

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CRIME

New man leads fight against major crime

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

SPENDING cuts and job losses could have a huge impact on people's confidence in the police, warns the new head of Kent's serious crime squad.

The county force is currently battling to save £50 million over the next four years due to a 20 per cent cut in Home Office funding, which is expected to lead to a loss of around 500 officers and 1,000 support staff.

But speaking to KoS in his new role as head of the Kent and Essex Serious Crime Directorate, Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge indicated that his department should be spared the brunt of the reductions.

"Nothing would impact on public confidence more than a very serious crime going undetected," he said.

"People expect us to keep them safe, and that's something we're very strong at. I think the chief constables of Kent and Essex have been very clear

about the scale of the financial challenge, and that jobs will have to go over the next four years.

"But in times like these you look at what gives you the best value for money, and a collaboration (with Essex) offers us that. We in the Serious Crime Directorate have made the savings that have been asked of us and what we've got is what we will keep now in dealing with the upper end of criminality."

The Serious Crime Directorate is one of the largest divisions in UK policing dedicated to tackling serious and organised crime, with more than 1,100 police officers and staff across six departments. These include major crimes such as murder and rape, serious and organised crime like drug trafficking, intelligence, forensics, and two departments involving covert support.

Officers from the directorate were among the first on the scene following the shocking murders of Christine Chambers and her two-year-old daughter Shania in Brintree, Essex, on Monday.

Mr Beautridge joined Kent Police in 1979, and spent the majority of his career as a detective, overseeing a number of high-profile cases including the 1998 Kent Air Ambulance disaster.

He was appointed head of the Serious Crime Directorate following the promotion of his

predecessor Alan Pughsley to the rank of Deputy Chief Constable last March.

Mr Beautridge said: "Every single county and community unfortunately has criminals within it, and Kent does have people who operate at the higher end of criminal ventures. I wouldn't want to mislead anybody to the contrary.

"The better criminals operate in the same way as successful businessmen in that they are bright and intelligent. But we have the capacity and the capability in terms of the experience and professionalism of our staff to get after these people and bring them to justice."

Meanwhile, Kent Police Federation has run the last of four adverts in KoS aimed at raising awareness of the 20 per cent cuts to policing.

But chairman Ian Pointon says the campaign will continue and is urging people to lobby their MPs in support of it.

He added: "We have already lost a staggering 173 officers since last year. At a time when

overseas aid, as important as that is, is set to rise by 42 per cent to £12 billion per annum, is it right the policing budget is being cut by 20 per cent?

"In four years this country will be spending significantly more on overseas aid than it does on the safety of its own citizens. That cannot be right."



FOREWARNED: Assistant Chief Constable Gary Beautridge



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NEWS

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The Barretts and Broad Oak Group are delighted to announce that after a close fought competition, the overall winner of the BMW Bodyshop of the Year award is Barretts Accident Repair Centre, the approved Group bodyshop for Broad Oak Canterbury and Broad Oak Ashford.

Darren Blunden and his team at Broad Oak were congratulated for their significant advances the business made in 2010.

Darren flew to BMW HQ in Munich earlier this year to collect this well deserved award.



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FUNDING

Community projects do battle for lottery cash

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

AN AMBITIOUS project aimed at restoring wartime tunnels beneath Ramsgate is among six battling it out for a slice of lottery cash.

Later this month viewers of Meridian Tonight will vote for their three favourites in the Jubilee People's Millions competition, all of which will receive up to £60,000 funding as part of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee celebrations in 2012.

The Ramsgate Tunnels Heritage

Project, which will be featured on the ITV regional news programme on June 27, seeks to open a small section of the underground network which protected thousands of residents during World War Two.

Town mayor Cllr David Green said: "We want to show the current generation what went on there."

"Ramsgate lost its museum when the town library burned down a few years ago, so this project would create something for teachers, tourists and other members of the public."

The project competing against

Ramsgate Tunnels is the Respite Holidays That Are Magic scheme – organised by Medway Autism Group and Information Centre – which wants to purchase a holiday home on the Hoo Peninsula.

The final night of voting on June 29 will see the Community Park for North Deal project lock horns with Bradstow School's Streetpitch scheme in Broadstairs.

Bradstow's inclusion development manager Lorraine Hiller said the school, which caters for autistic children, wants to build a five-a-

side football pitch with an artificial highway system surrounding it to teach pupils how to cross the road.

She said: "We think this is the only development of its kind in the world and it would mean a huge amount to the children."

Sixty lottery grants worth a total of £3.6 million will be awarded across the UK through the scheme.

In addition to the three in the Meridian region that will win up to £60,000 each, the best runner-up over the three nights will also receive the funding they requested.

TRIBUTES

Family say goodbye to tragic drowned Alex

FAMILY tributes have been paid to a 12-year-old boy who died after falling into the River Medway

Alex Chappell, pictured, died on May 30. He had been playing on a swing over the river at a park in Tovil at 2.30pm, when he fell.

His parents Gina Tweddell and Adam Ottaway said:

"We will always remember the joy, fun, cheekiness and stubbornness you gave us."

"You always knew how to keep us on our toes in times of laughter and sorrow."

"Who can forget the love and kindness you gave. We are proud to have you as a son and we will always love you. Words can't explain the emotion and loss we feel. Stay safe our brave boy, we will be with you very soon."

"You will always be in our hearts and our hearts will always be with you."

And grandparents Paul and Donna Ottaway added: "We are sad we can't share in the life he should have had, but are very proud of the young man he had become."

"Goodnight Alex, we look forward to seeing you again. You will be greatly missed, all our love."



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NATURAL BEAUTIES:

From left, Natalie Archibald and Simone Morris are looking to save the planet and win their crowns in the national Miss Earth contest later this year

**BEAUTY PAGEANT**

Green goddesses spread the word about the environment in their bid to become queens

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

ELEGANT eco-warriors inspired by the Garden of England have reached the UK final of a global beauty pageant.

Natalie Archibald, 19, from Faversham, and Simone Morris, 15, from Snodland, will take part in the Miss Earth and Miss Teen Earth competitions respectively in an attempt to raise awareness of environmental issues such as climate change and recycling.

The winner of the main UK contest will represent the country at the international finals in Thailand later this year.

But before that Natalie, who studies performing arts at Canterbury College, will have to demonstrate to judges how she has contributed to environmental conservation in her community.

She said: "I've already done a couple of things, including helping to clean up a nature reserve on the Saxon Shore Way at Seasalter and giving a presentation to people in my class at college."

"I think the Miss Earth message is a



promoting such an important issue."

The winner of Miss Earth UK will join more than 100 other young women vying for the chance to become an ambassador for environmental protection campaigns worldwide.

Also up for grabs is a modelling contract, a wardrobe of evening gowns, a pair of organic jeans, and even a handbag made from recycled number plates.

Natalie and Simone reached the semi-finals of their respective competitions after submitting pictures and online entry forms about themselves.

They were both selected as grand finalists after impressing during individual private interviews.

Simone said: "I want the environment to be saved for as long as possible, and I'm helping out by getting involved in things like recycling."

"I'd love to have a career in the fashion industry and have my own range of clothes made from recycled material."

The Miss Earth UK finals are in September. See www.missearthgirls.co.uk for more information.

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QUEEN'S HONOURS

Volunteer groups get MBEs from the Queen

A COASTWATCH crew and community bus company are among five groups to have been awarded an MBE for voluntary services.

The Kent groups were chosen from hundreds of nominees in the South East for their outstanding work.

Folkestone's branch of the National Coastwatch Institution (NCI), which helps keep watch over the coastline; and Brighter Futures for Older People in Maidstone, a befriending service for the elderly, were both commended, along with Health Action Charity Organisation, which works with African communities in Medway.

Petts Wood Playgroup for Children with Special Needs, near Bromley, and Bexhill Community Bus Ltd, also received MBEs. The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service.

Station manager of NCI Folkestone, Tony Hutt, said: "We were so grateful and excited to be nominated so to actually get it is great."

The groups will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and a commemorative crystal presented by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant.

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News

JOUSTING

Pictures: PAUL JERREAT



KNIGHT RIDER: More than 27,000 people watched the exciting sport of jousting staged at Leeds Castle

Thousands enjoy the knights' joust at castle

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

THE Knights of Royal England came to Leeds Castle to stage a series of spectacular jousts in front of more than 27,000 people last week.

The mass of spectators watched displays of horsemanship and fights with weapons dating back to the Middle Ages in an event sponsored by Archant KOS Media.

A specially constructed tournament ring was the venue for the encounters, set up in the meadows outside the castle walls.

Jousting dates back to the Middle Ages when knights practised their horsemanship skills using a lance as a weapon.

The sport developed with two armed horsemen riding at each other with levelled lances, each aiming to unseat his opponent.

It declined as a serious sport with the

arrival of gunpowder in the 17th century, but the Victorians revived it as entertainment. In recent years films such as Heath Ledger's *A Knight's Tale* have increased its popularity as a spectacle.

This form of combat – bizarrely the official sport of the state of Maryland, USA – was even popular in wartime during the Middle Ages.

A spokeswoman for the event said: "Leeds Castle is pleased so many people supported our annual jousting event this year. The weather was fantastic and thousands enjoyed a day in the sunshine at 'the loveliest castle in the world'. We look forward to welcoming our visitors back to our next jousting event on September 10-11, and on September 9 for special ticketed evening of

Sunset Jousting and an open-air cinema screening of *A Knight's Tale*."

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News

EDUCATION

Gove's school admissions code proposals under fire

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

GOVERNMENT education chiefs have been warned an "over-simplified" school admissions code risks creating even more confusion for parents.

Proposed new rules on how places are allocated in state schools have been put out for consultation, but the guide has been criticised for lacking detail in several key areas.

Concern has also been raised over plans to allow oversubscribed schools to expand more easily, which opponents say could spell the demise of less popular neighbouring schools.

Independent education adviser Peter Read said other proposed rules – including allowing primary schools to exceed their 30-infants per class limit for twins and children from military families – have not been explained clearly enough to avoid confusion.

"What if 20 Gurkha families move to Shorncliffe Barracks in Folkestone?" he said.

"Will all of their children be allowed to attend the same primary school?"

"That's not been explained and there's a lot of vagueness and ambiguity, as there is with other parts of the code."

"It's a consultation and one hopes these points will be taken up, but if they are all taken up then the code will go back to being as big as it was before."

Education Secretary Michael Gove said the old code, which was 130 pages long, was "bureaucratic and unfair".

Other proposals included in the new 50-page version include the banning of area-wide lotteries for popular schools, and improvements in the way places are allocated to children who move area in the middle of an academic year.

Cllr Gary Cooke – deputy cabinet member for education at Kent County Council – warned that simplification of the code may create additional conflict between schools and parents.

He said: "Some schools may

choose to set arrangements that parents may consider unfair, and without a definitive rulebook the Department for Education (DfE) – and indeed local authorities – may find they are constantly brought into battles regarding what is fair or reasonable in regard to admissions arrangements."

The most controversial proposal in the new code involves allowing popular schools to expand without permission from local authorities or the education secretary.

Although this could see an end to admissions pressure in places like west Kent, there are fears that underachieving or less popular schools could end up closing due to lack of finances. This is because funding is allocated based on pupil numbers.

Cllr Cooke added: "As with any change in legislation and procedures, there will always be some winners and some losers."

The 12-week consultation started on May 27. Visit www.education.gov.uk/consultations for more information.

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OPINION

EU bailout a burden too far

Ukip leader Nigel Farage says we should use public money for services at home – not abroad on EU funding for the likes of Portugal and Greece

ACCORDING to county council figures, the Government's austerity drive is forcing Kent to find £340 million savings from its £2.4 billion budget.

This amounts to at least 1,500 jobs lost out of 12,000 council employees and almost 10,000 public sector workers, all told.

A report produced by the council in January shows the knock-on effect of the cuts beyond the 1,500 directly employed will be 37,910 across the county.

Meanwhile the Government has so far committed £12.5bn, or £604 per man, woman and child, to the European Union bailouts.

The Labour government left a legacy of financial failure.

This Government talks about cuts but in fact is increasing public spending.

The taxes raised do not cover the spending already committed.

Any household, any business, any department, in the situation we are in now would recognise that we cannot go on like this.

According to the Local Government Rich List, a study by the Taxpayers' Alliance, there are 31 Kent County Council staff on six-figure salaries, one of the highest number for any council in England.

There is fat to be cut in Kent. Taxpayers have been paying far too much for far too long.

But when we see what is being cut, it isn't the big salary positions.

In recent months we have learnt that school libraries are for the chop – a brilliant idea when educational standards are decreasing.

Low-paid nurses in Kent are being forced to pay for parking at work; subsidised bus services for some of the more isolated villages could be axed, threatening isolation

for our pensioners.

Youth clubs are being hit, and the local Kent Police Federation is considering action over proposed cuts of over 500 officers.

And these are just some of the issues that I have received in my mailbox.

Of course, there is a massive elephant in the room when we talk about the Government's partial austerity measures; an elephant that has an insatiable appetite – the EU bailouts.

The bailout is there to fund the failures of EU policy: to pay for their financial failures.

Don't get me wrong: I am appalled by the legacy of waste at home, but the £12.5bn that has been committed by this country to spend on Portugal, Ireland and Greece, makes it impossible to balance the books.

Anybody who is worried about a services being cut or



“

No more of the EU bailouts, no more throwing our money away to Brussels

chopped should be aware that the Government is planning a reduction in spending of £20bn – of which over half is already committed to the EU bailouts.

So more than half of the night on 40,000 jobs in Kent could be saved if we were not ensuring that libraries in Athens were kept open!

If you are running a campaign against the cuts, then get in touch at nigel.farage@europarl.europa.eu.

I want to know because the Government needs to be told.

No more EU bailouts, no more throwing our money away to Brussels.

People here in Kent are angry about this, and want their money spent on their own services.

■ Nigel Farage, is the leader of the United Kingdom Independence Party (Ukip) and a South East MEP. He lives in Westerham.

KOS COMMENT

Special needs pupils need school support

IT'S a sad state of affairs whenever any child is expelled from school, but especially if that child has special educational needs.

Through no fault of their own many children find it incredibly tough to succeed in a classroom environment, so it's up to our schools to ensure they are given the right support to enable them to prosper.

It is therefore disappointing to see that so many are throwing in the towel and expelling SEN pupils when government policy is for headteachers to do everything in their power to keep them in education.

Parents and children deserve better.

Red-faced councillors pay the price of failure

WHILE hardly a national scandal, Tory members of Shepway council are the latest to fall foul of strict expenses rules.

Luckily for them they only forgot to hand in a set of forms, but a pretty poor showing nonetheless.

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Frontline not ones to blame

RE: 'WHO was to blame for slump in child services?' KoS, June 5.

May I, in the strongest possible terms, refute the suggestion that social workers are somehow taking the blame for the failings identified in last November's Ofsted inspection.

While there is a desire in some quarters to play the blame game, the absolute focus of those working in children's social care is to make the required improvements and provide the best support to children and families.

Since taking on specialist children's services in late-January, I have been candid about what went wrong and what is required to rebuild and strengthen the service.

At no time have I, nor will I, blame those on the frontline.

They were dealing with a massive rise in referrals and trying to cope with their own work and that of others – using a computer recording system that was not fit for purpose and sometimes

working without adequate supervision.

These people need backing not blaming.

I will do all I can to support them as they carry out one of the most challenging jobs in public service.

Cllr Jenny Whittle, cabinet member for specialist children's services, Kent County Council

Pylons cast a great shadow

I DO NOT agree with your view that electricity pylons are a blight. I think they are necessary, useful and functional.

Their form follows their function – to hold up the power cables that allow us to enjoy the benefits of electricity.

Visually, pylons are just one of the many signs on our landscape that we humans have shaped the landscape and will continue to do so.

I think that beauty often arises when our creation's form follows its function and I think a lived-in landscape is more beautiful than a deserted one.

Adrian Pepper, Deal

Speed limits drive me mad

I'M SURE I can't be the only Kent motorist to be concerned about the way the temporary speed limits are applied in the Maidstone variable speed limit zone.

I think I'm right to say there are 11 speed limit/camera gantries in a five-mile section of the M20.

Driving through there around 6pm this half-term week, traffic congestion was noticeably better than usual. Despite the easy traffic flow the speed limits were set at a seemingly random series of 50mph and 60mph.

Can somebody assure me that here is some science behind these limits?

It really feels as though somebody sets them to be as annoying and senseless as possible.

Every night the pattern seems different and I am often faced with an almost empty road in front of 50mph signs, having come through a series of 60s.

John Evans, Ashford

Rural folk not in the picture

I NOTED with some interest rural crime rated two column inches on Page 3 of the latest KoS.

I say 'interest' because many years ago when we began to see the proliferation of cameras in major conurbations, many of us expressed the concern that this would inevitably lead to crime being dispersed to other areas where it was not regarded as viable to have such cameras placed, and this would be exacerbated by the reduction in policing of rural areas.

However, we were told that this would not happen and were even criticised for 'scaremongering'.

This ignored the number one priority of the criminal: 'don't get caught'. They will do whatever is necessary to avoid detection, and if that means shifting their ground to areas where they are least likely to be detected, that's exactly what they'll do.

It's come to pass and yet all we get from the Government is

that crime is going down.

It may well be, but that is no consolation to the farmers who are having expensive equipment stolen, or the rural community where a regular police presence is all but non-existent, that experiences an ATM ram-raid on their local supermarket.

Now the situation has become so bad that farmers are contemplating teaming up to employ private security firms to carry out mobile patrols. This is police work, yet police numbers are scheduled to be cut.

All this lack of proper policing is going on while every weekend it can be guaranteed that there will be countless staff employed monitoring cameras in Maidstone, looking for aggressive binge drinkers and police carriers (each with probably at least eight coppers on board) will be parked in convenient side streets waiting for it all to 'kick-off' somewhere in the town. Farmers and rural communities must feel so let down that they have to resort to employing private security to protect them.

Government, both central and local, should resist this

obsession with cameras. They have their purpose, but they cannot be redeployed to other areas, so they are no substitute for 'real policing'.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maidstone

I can't Hyde from protest

BARELY a week goes by when I am not receiving a bloodcurdling email from the Manston Airport – No Night Flighters (NNF) or am being accosted by some NNF militant who wants to convert me to their cause.

They repeat the same old mantra: "Airport bad, Charles Buchanan very bad and Infratil, evil power of the universe." Anyone who dares to disagree with them is labelled 'the enemy'.

Most of these objectors have only recently moved to the area. They also tend to be house owners and believe their relatively cheap purchases will rocket in price once the airport is no more.

They invent or embellish facts to 'prove' the airport is the source of Aids, bulimia, beriberi and mad cow disease as well as noise and air pollution. They would have us believe the European and UK airspace authorities have given the airport exclusive permission to fly in dangerous, unairworthy and overloaded aircraft with engines hanging off and wings taped to the fuselage. Every infringement they leap on with gurgling cries of joy.

Many of them either have good jobs in London or generous pensions. Some maintain a pied à terre in Ramsgate. They are unmoved by the job losses that would result from the airport's closure. They claim children are adversely affected by night flights, but care nothing for the children whose parents would be rendered unemployed.

Most of them fly and never give a thought for the people they fly over.

Many of these people are my friends, but once the pavlovian words are uttered – airport, Charles Buchanan, Infratil – Mr Jekyll becomes Mr Hyde.

You cannot debate with them. They heckle you and then haunt your footsteps. Democrats they are not and that, perhaps, sadly defines them.

Gerry O'Donnell, Ramsgate

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Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances. Please also include your daytime telephone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit letters.

Three ways of looking at a taxing problem

Q IN 1984, my wife and I gave my parents-in-law the money to buy their council house. An agreement was written out that in the event of their deaths, the property would come to us, but we did not receive any rent. My mother-in-law passed away in 2000, and my father-in-law in 2003, so the property was then owned by my wife and myself. We rented it out, but are now considering selling. The tax office has said we will have to pay capital gains tax from the time the property was purchased, but a solicitor has told us tax is due only on any gain since the property came under our names, after my father-in-law died.

A THERE are at least three ways of looking at this. The taxman is clearly taking the view that your parents-in-law were never the real owners of the property – they were just fronting for you and your wife. If so, he believes, tax is due on the rise in the value of the house since it was bought. On the other hand, the solicitor has presumably seen the 1984 agreement and decided that if it really did say that the property would pass to you only at some point in the future, then from 1984 to 2003 it did belong to your parents-in-law. In this case any rise in value is covered by their exemption from gains tax as owner-occupiers. I have not seen the agreement, but I tend to agree with your solicitor. After all, what would have happened if you and your wife had died first? And could your parents-in-law have sold the house without your consent or would the wording of the agreement have allowed you to stop them? The answers to these two questions are important. They would show whether or not you had real, legal rights over the property – and if you did, then the taxman would have a stronger case. Now for the third option, which involves going back to the law as it was in 1984. Then, if someone provided a rent-free home for a dependent relative, the property escaped gains tax. The relative did not have to be financially dependent, just infirm, over 65 or even over 55 and unable to work. This exemption was scrapped in 1988, except for anyone already entitled to it. The chances are that the taxman does not even know about a law that was abolished 23 years ago. So go back to your solicitor and get him to claim this exemption on your behalf.

Q I HAVE some gold, including a 100g ingot (about three-and-a-half ounces), but I have been given different quotes by dealers if I sell to them. What I really want is to know how much the person who would then buy the gold from the dealer would pay. Any ideas?

A AS I write gold is trading on the international bullion markets at about \$1,545 per ounce, but

TONY HETHERINGTON
MONEY CLINIC



dealers can offer you whatever they wish, and they can sell your gold on at whatever price the buyer is willing to pay. There is no official price that everyone must use. The only way you can sidestep the dealers is to advertise the gold yourself and find your own buyer, or perhaps auction it on eBay. However, the gold market is pretty competitive. I suspect you will still find that professional dealers offer more than ordinary buyers, as long as you avoid the sharks who sometimes advertise for 'unwanted' gold and pay far less than the real value.

Q ON MARCH 5, I was unfortunate enough to skid on some diesel and the car turned upside down. The insurance company offered £7,100 and I accepted, but now my letters and emails are ignored. Telephone calls are always met with 'the cheque is in the post', but of course it isn't. How can I be sure I am still insured, and how do I stand if I reinsure with another firm?

A YOU gave me the name of the company, but as there are several with very similar names I am not going to print it for fear of criticising the wrong one. So call the Financial Services Authority (0845 606 1234) and check that the insurer is still licensed. If so, and you still have an insurance certificate, you are still covered and have no need to pay for protection all over again with a different firm. Enlist the help of the Financial Ombudsman (0800 023 4567) to get your £7,100. Supply a copy of the offer from the company and explain that you accepted, but heard nothing more. The ombudsman will then order the company to pay, and you may even get a bit extra for the delay and inconvenience.

Q I SHALL reach 65 shortly. In the 1960s I worked for a company that later ceased trading. I paid into its pension scheme for about three years. Is there any way of claiming on this?

A The Government's Pension Tracing Service (0845 6002 537) has files on lots of old businesses and can help you track down any pension still owed to you.

■ **If you have a personal-finance question, write to Tony Hetherington, MyMoney24, Prospect House, Rouen Road, Norwich NR1 1RE. We regret that neither Tony nor the MyMoney24 team can enter into personal correspondence.**

It's time to perk up your pension

By Adam Aiken
MyMoney 24 editor

THE cost of a cup of coffee a day is all that stands between many workers' savings habits and a comfortable retirement.

The financial difficulties facing the retirees of the future have been laid bare in a report finding that half of people aged more than 30 are making insufficient provision for their futures.

The annual UK Pensions Report, produced by Scottish Widows, also found that a fifth of people are failing to make any financial plans for their retirement at all.

But an average extra contribution of just £58 a month could make all the difference for people who are currently on course to fall short with their pension saving.

The report, based partly on the Scottish Widows Pensions Index, found that only 51pc of people were making sufficient retirement provisions.

When those with final-salary schemes – of which almost all are now closed to new members – are excluded from the figures, the number of people making adequate financial plans falls to about 25pc.

These findings came despite the fact that nearly three in four people say they are aware of the need to take personal responsibility for their own futures.

The report is also partly based on the Scottish Widows Average Savings Ratio which tracks the percentage of income being saved for retirement by workers not expecting to get their main retirement income from final salary pensions.

The company reckons people should be saving about 12pc of their salaries, but the average person is putting aside only 9pc.

"This year's report clearly illustrates the stark difficulty we face in helping people to recognise the urgent need to take personal responsibility for their futures," said Ian Naismith, head of pensions market development for Scottish Widows.



DON'T LEAVE IT TOO LATTÉ: The price of a cup of coffee a day is all that stands between many people and a better financial future when the time comes to retire

bility for their futures," said Ian Naismith, head of pensions market development for Scottish Widows.

"We need a step-change to overcome this ingrained inertia and help people prepare for their retirement."

According to the report, people hope to be receiving an average income of £24,300 by the time they turn 70.

But even though the survey's respondents claim to be able to save an additional £97 a month, they are failing to do so, meaning many people will fall short of their desired annual income during retirement.

"Put simply, people need to save

an extra £58 a month on average to prepare adequately for retirement and make up the shortfall we are seeing currently.

"That is roughly the cost of a cup of coffee every day," said Mr Naismith.

"Even though, for many, this is realistic – and is in under the average £97.10 a month people say they can afford – we appreciate the difficulty in setting aside extra money.

"It's about breaking through that inertia. For some, the amount that needs to be saved will be higher but it's about taking small steps, getting on to the savings ladder and, more importantly, staying on it."

Two thirds of income is eaten up by debt

ONE OF the country's leading debt charities has lifted the lid on the struggles of its clients, revealing that nearly two thirds of a typical client's income is taken for debt repayments.

Based on a 37.5-hour week, working from 9am to 5pm, the Consumer Credit Counselling Service (CCCS) said the average person who approaches it for help needs to work until 4pm on Wednesday in order to

earn enough to repay their unsecured debts.

It is only then that they can start earning money for basic living costs, including their mortgage.

The CCCS said the average person who contacted the charity last year owed nearly £22,500 on credit cards, personal loans, overdrafts and other types of unsecured debt, with typical monthly repayment bills of £675.

That represents 58pc of the average client's take-home earnings of £1,173 a month.

Delroy Corinaldi, external affairs director at the CCCS said: "Our advice to anyone struggling to cope with their repayments is to seek free advice as early as possible."

The organisation was contacted by 418,000 people in 2010.

News

Fresh fears over energy prices



Best buys

Check out the leading mortgage deals



On the blogs

Peter Sharkey:
Dividend achievers reward investors



LOAN BOOST: Whatever you need it for, a personal loan can help make life that little bit better – and now the market is getting more competitive

Hot new deals on offer if you're looking for a loan

By Adam Aiken

MyMoney 24 editor

THE personal loans market has been hotting up, with at least two new leading deals launched during the past few days.

Barclays took the initiative when it announced a rate of 6.9pc to people who have current accounts with the bank and who want to borrow between £15,000 and £25,000.

That product was the second-lowest on offer at the time, behind a deal from Sainsbury's Finance.

But Nationwide Building Society quickly eclipsed both Barclays and Sainsbury's when it launched a rate of 6.7pc for loans between £7,500 and £15,000.

Like Barclays' offering, the Nationwide deal is available only to the society's current account customers. However, there is also a competitive rate of 6.8pc available to non-Nationwide customers.

Michelle Slade, a market expert at Moneyfacts.co.uk, said the developments reflected a fall in the chances of customers defaulting on their borrowing.

"When people's financial commitments get too much the first thing they forgo is their unsecured borrowing such as personal loans. They prefer to maintain their secured commitments, such as mortgages," she said.

"As the financial crisis hit, the risk of customers defaulting on loans increased and this increased risk was passed on to customers through higher rates. Although lenders were still offering loans, they did not actively seek to lend and the personal loan market became stagnant.

"However, since the start of the year competition has returned to the personal loan market and rates on selected tiers have started to fall."

Miss Slade said there had been a growing trend for lenders to offer loans only to their existing

customers because they were known entities and it was easier to predict how they would manage their debts. But she said customers should not assume that their existing banks or building societies would offer the best deals.

For example, although Barclays is a market-leader for loans of between £15,000-25,000, an existing customer would typically be charged 19.9pc for a Barclayloan of £7,500 – nearly three times the rate on offer to non-customers at Nationwide.

Barclays customers borrowing £7,500 over five years at 19.9pc from their bank would repay a total of £11,528. As non-customers at Nationwide, however, a rate of 6.8pc would involve repayments of only £8,825.

"A lender may be the most competitive for one loan amount but may be less competitive on a different tier," said Miss Slade.

"Consumers need to ensure they are comparing rates for the amounts they need to borrow."

Many wealthy people wish they had more financial discipline

BEING very rich and having great financial discipline do not automatically go hand in hand, with many high net-worth people admitting they wished they had better self-control when it came to their money.

A study of wealthy individuals has found that a third of those based in the UK would like to have more self-

discipline – and this desire increases as people get richer, according to the report by Barclays Wealth.

On a global basis, the need for increased financial discipline is likely to be felt most by those whose net-worth is £10 million or more. Nearly half of all people in this category said they wanted more self-control.

Meanwhile, investors who use a strategy when it comes to investing rather than simply relying on their emotions can reap the rewards.

The survey found that those who have a 'high strategy usage' are typically wealthier than those who do not follow rules.

Simon Smith, of Barclays Wealth, said: "As well as being prepared to take risks to pursue gains, there is a desire for more control, which presents an interesting challenge.

"Clearly, more needs to be done to help clients understand their financial personality and the benefits of using financial self-control strategies."

PICK OF THE WEEK

In association with the experts at **Moneyfacts.co.uk**, we highlight some of the best new products launched this week.

Savings: Coventry Building Society

Coventry Building Society has launched its eNotice (2) account. This online-only deal pays an annual rate of 3.05pc, including a bonus of 0.5pc for 12 months. The gross rate is guaranteed to be at least 3.05pc until March, 2012. A monthly-interest option is available at 3.01pc. Savers can invest between £1,000 and £250,000.

Advance notice of 30 days must be given to access funds; investors who access funds early will incur a 30-day loss-of-interest penalty. All withdrawals must be made via a nominated account or transferred to another Coventry account. It can be operated by savers aged 16 and over.

Why is it good? This latest issue of the popular eNotice account sits just below the current market-leading 30-day notice account.

The fact that the rate is guaranteed to be at least equal to 3.05pc until the end of March next year will no doubt add to its overall appeal.

Savings: Post Office

The one-year Online Bond Issue 4 pays 3.35pc on maturity, with a monthly interest rate of 3.3pc. Investments between £500 and £2m can be made, but further additions are not permitted. Early access is allowed but on account closure only and is subject to a breakage fee. This online-only account is available to savers aged 18 and over.

Why is it good? At 3.35pc, this online bond rate is among the market leaders in its field. The account offers flexibility to savers who wish to access funds early, although this will be subject to an interest penalty.

Mortgages: Yorkshire Building Society

Yorkshire Building Society has withdrawn and replaced some of its variable tracker rates including a new three-year tracker deal at 2.29pc (Bank of England base rate plus 1.79pc) to June 2014.

The maximum loan-to-value is 75pc and customers can borrow a minimum of £25,001. A fee of £995 is payable. There is also the option to make overpayments, make underpayments and take payment holidays.

Why is it good? This new deal has stormed to the top of the three-year tracker-rate market. Available to first-time, second-time and remortgage customers borrowing up to 75pc of a property's value, this product has a reasonably low fee and offers customers a host of flexible features, such as the option to make overpayments up to 10pc of the outstanding balance.



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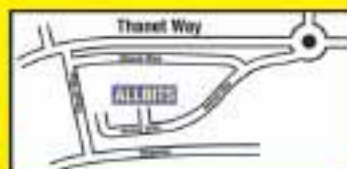
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EDITOR'S VIEW...

LUXURY ice-cream producer Sally Newall is looking to take her Simply brand to the next stage by selling her desserts nationwide. The company has come a long way since its 2006 inception, when batches were made in Mrs Newall's kitchen, an impressive story in its own right. What makes it all the more impressive is Mrs Newall's self-sustainable business ethos, which, while it hindered growth, effectively eliminated risk.

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Slowdown in jobs market could impact on economy

By Simon Robinson

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THE UK labour market is at risk of coming to a standstill, a new report has suggested.

The Recruitment And Employment Confederation (REC) and KPMG Report On Jobs found permanent and temporary staff appointments both rose at the weakest rate in seven months.

It is feared that the May data – provided by recruitment consultancies – is indicative of a stalling market, with employers unable or unwilling to invest in growth.

REC chief executive Kevin Green said: "The latest data show a worrying deceleration in the UK jobs market. Although the number of placements has continued to increase, the rate of expansion has hit a seven-month low.

"Private-sector job creation has not hit the buffers, but it is clearly slowing, which heightens concerns over whether public-sector job losses can be absorbed.

"There have been signs of increasing employer confidence in some sectors, but economic growth remains too fragile to spark the real step-change that our jobs market needs.

"With consumer confidence at a low ebb, many individuals who would normally be looking to change jobs are staying put.

"The feedback from recruitment professionals confirms a real paradox in the current jobs market, namely the ongoing challenge of finding suitable candidates in a number of sectors.



SIGN OF THE TIME: A new report shows signs that the UK job market is in danger of coming to a standstill

"With the Government's much-discussed Work Programme formally getting under way this month, the question now is whether it will be able to deliver the training and guidance necessary to address the current disconnect between employer needs and available candidates.

"Looking ahead, the mismatch between vacancies and skills available could hinder future growth."

KPMG partner and head of business services Bernard Brown said: "The latest figures are worrying – because they reveal a marked slow-down of the UK jobs market. We'll need to see whether this is a trend or a blip.

"Employers across all sectors are becoming more cautious about hiring new staff.

"With businesses and consumers now being hit by higher taxes and fuel costs, public-spending cuts and a continuing squeeze on real incomes, this is perhaps no surprise.

"The hope now is that growth in the UK will pick up later this year, led by a private-sector recovery absorbing job losses in the public sector."

Peter Newey, managing director of the Farrer Barnes recruitment consultancy in Canterbury, said the Kent picture was rosier than the national outlook.

"Although I accept these conclusions as a reflection of the overall market, countrywide we speak to a lot of influential decision-makers throughout the region and the message we are hearing time and again is generally a little more optimistic," he said.

"As a business we appear to be close to the start of the economic cycle and my instinct is that things are improving – albeit at a slow and steady rate. Having said that, I do believe that the economy is at a crucial stage – a point backed up by the current split within the monetary policy committee – but given the last couple of years I believe that the recruitment industry will look back on 2011 with a degree of contentment."

ENERGY

Eco-activities will be backed by KCC

KENT County Council bosses have pledged to provide public-sector support to low-carbon and green energy projects across the county.

The backing was made at an eco-energy event at East Malling Conference Centre.

Opening the one-day conference, KCC leader Paul Carter said: "This is one of a number of conversations we are having to consider what the public sector can do to help and support your industries to thrive."

More than 80 delegates attended the event, during which offshore wind farms, biofuels and other green projects were discussed.

KCC economic development boss Kevin Lynes said: "This event has demonstrated how many leading-edge businesses in this sector we have in Kent. This is a brand new industry with superb growth opportunities and we are right on the ground floor of it. We need to help build on the recent successes and make Kent the place of choice for the renewable-energy industry."



EYES ON THE PRIZE: Aron Baker

APPRENTICESHIPS

Winning title would add gloss for Aron

INTERIOR designer Aron Baker is hoping for a nice finish after reaching the finals of Dulux's apprentice-of-the-year competition.

The 19-year-old, who trains at North West Kent College in Gravesend, has come through nine heats to reach the finals, held in Wales next week.

Apprentices will be given tasks across two days, testing their wallpapering, stencilling and special-effects skills.

His tutor, Phil Jubb, said: "I am really proud of what Aron has achieved. I hope it inspires other young people, helps to raise the profile of our trade and demonstrates that you need good training to reach these heights."

Dulux's Peter Doyle said: "Both the recognition that comes with winning this competition, which can really help to start a career for any up-and-coming painter and decorator, and the £1,000 prize on offer are great reasons to enter."

HEALTH

Stressed workers eye benefits perks

MORE than half of all South East employees are more stressed than they were a year ago, a new study suggests.

The research, by Sovereign Health Care, found that 53 per cent of respondents were feeling extra pressure, while a third said they had become ill from work-related stress.

The recession was blamed for the increase – having led to greater workloads and increased pressure. Sovereign's chief executive Russ Piper said: "It appears that while pay has remained frozen, employee workloads have increased. This unrewarded extra work can lead to low morale and employee discontent.

"It would be prudent for businesses to recognise this and consider cost-effective ways to counter this and add value to their own workplace. One way of achieving this is through health-related employee benefits."

Almost half of those questioned said they would change employer in return for a better benefits package – even if their salary remained the same.

COMMENT

SOTA Solutions wants businesses to think about how reliant they are on their IT system and, more importantly, what they would do if their service was disrupted by a disaster such as a fire or a flood.

The Kent Science Park company is confident that in the vast majority of cases, particularly in the SME market, the answer would be 'practically grind to a halt'.

Sota has built a Disaster Recovery facility at its Sittingbourne base to accommodate any firm that wants to keep working while its offices are rebuilt, dried out or otherwise.

Of course, it can take something as innocuous as a misplaced road-digging crew to bring a business to its knees by scooping through its electricity cables.

Which begs the question, how have we allowed ourselves to operate without a back-up business-continuity plan? For a small annual fee, companies get peace of mind in knowing that they have a state-of-the-art office on standby at a central Kent location. Clients can take as few as just five work stations and up to the 100-station capacity.

This office insurance was once of sole interest to high-end businesses such as banks and insurers. But as more and more firms become reliant on their e-business, it seems a savvy move by Sota to open it up to SMEs.

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How have we allowed ourselves to operate without a back-up business continuity plan?



Toby lands himself in a pickle with new project

AS far as clear career progressions go, the move from London design agency boss to one-man home-made pickle-producer is among the most obscure.

But Toby Hotchkiss's bold move, which has taken him from London to the Kent coast, seems to be paying off.

The 43-year-old's firm – Whitstable Pickle Company – has made its first sales, begun taking orders online and expanded its range.

Hotchkiss said the career change came about as a result of his penchant for giving his home-made pickles and chutneys as Christmas presents.

"I fell out of love with being a designer and decided it was time for a change, so I closed down my agency and starting thinking about alternatives," he said.

"I had never really thought about pickling as a business, but so many people were complimentary about what I made that I decided to give it a try."

Having settled on the Whitstable Pickle Company name, he designed his own label and started work on his first product, a fig-and-plum chutney.

It was not long before his first order was secured.

Hotchkiss said: "I was determined to use only fresh, high-quality products and to source them locally where possible. I buy the majority of my fruit and vegetables from Mark at Granny Smiths, in Whitstable."



SPICING UP THINGS: Jayne Cooke of Barclays has been on hand to support Toby Hotchkiss in his chutney business

"It was a great feeling when I made my first sale – 30 jars of the fig-and-plum chutney to the Cheese Box in Harbour Street."

The pickler keeps his costs down by making all his produce at home in Victoria Street, but with the initial costs of stocks of vinegar, produce, jars and labels he needed the support of a bank to get the business established.

He spoke to Barclays, which provided a business account and to his surprise also agreed a business loan.

"Jayne Cooke at Barclays in Canterbury was very helpful indeed," he said. "She guided me through the proc-

ess and, considering all the publicity around banks not lending, I was surprised to find they were willing to show confidence in me and my business."

The Barclays Business manager added: "Toby had an excellent business plan and although he has no direct experience in the industry he has a niche product and a ready market and has personally backed the business by investing his own money."

"It has been a pleasure working with him and I am certainly a fan of his pickles. We are very much open for business and looking to support entrepreneurs." See www.whitstablepickles.co.uk.

Invention is on the nose for safety

A RACEHORSE-trainer's simple safety-clip invention has proved so successful at an unveiling event that two rival international firms immediately began jockeying to handle it.

Martin Smith launched his Equi-ping product at the BETA International Show in Birmingham, the world's leading equine-trader exhibition, where it won an innovation award.

The device, which prevents horses from hurting themselves when they are tied up, was hailed



by judges as "a small device that could have a big impact on safety and security when tying up horses and ponies".

Distributors in the United States and Australia quickly



came forward to register an interest in selling it.

Smith, who works at the John Best racing stables in Hucking, near Maidstone, said: "I thought it was a

solid idea but have been staggered by the response.

"We were working round the clock to satisfy the initial demand and, now we have distributors for America, the potential is enormous."

"When we first showed it at the fair in Birmingham we were surprised by the interest from abroad and we ended up in the wonderful position of rival distributors bidding to handle it for us."

Equi-ping is now being sold across Europe, the United States, Australia and the Middle East.

Exercise your brain in the art of selling

A MIND-gym has been set up at Kent Science Park to help overcome the blocks often associated with selling.

The training is being offered by sales trainer Paul Routley and business-performance specialist Graham Williams.

Routley says the two sessions on offer are unique and will lead to results. "The workshops at Kent Science Park are very different from the boring sales training seminars people are used to,"

he said. "By combining performance training with sales training we're helping people to change their mindset and their feelings about selling, rather than focusing on trying to make them better at doing something they don't particularly enjoy."

"It's really remarkable how quickly, and how profoundly, this shift in attitude can be achieved and the difference in results that follows."

Williams said: "Mind fitness is all

about training yourself to consistently operate at 100 per cent. It allows individuals to be as good as they possibly can be and, as a result, to achieve substantially improved results."

"It also helps people to overcome a 'can't do' or a 'won't do' attitude to selling, which has a remarkable impact."

The events will be on Wednesdays, July 6 and September 7, from 8.30am to 10.30am. To book a place, email jen.francis@ksp-uk.com.



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Ice cream making a cool profit

SIMPLY Ice Cream is, on the one hand, the very epitome of the cottage industry. For a start, it is literally a 'cottage' item – produced in one half of a large family home in the heart of rural Kent – and competes with the cold-hearted, dull steel machinery, industrial warehouse industry leaders by utilising its luxury, homemade, local-produce angle.

But on the other hand, labelling the Bonnington firm in such a way does owner Sally Newall and her small team a disservice: for this is no small-scale, side-project operation.

The company has doubled turnover every year since 2006 and is now stocked in 240 outlets across the region and a further 40 Waitrose branches.

Mrs Newall also has plans to take the brand to a national audience as well as team up with online retailer Ocado.

At her home-cum-ice-cream factory near Ashford, the mother-of-four explained how Simply came about and her attitude to growing it.

She said: "I trained as a chef and moved to Australia to work for five years. My mother set up a catering business in 1984 and when I came back her partner wanted to retire, so I took over.

"Our clients began to ask where they could buy our ice cream and so we slowly started to formulate a business model and a route to market."

The first batch of Simply Ice Cream went on sale at Potten farm shop, Sellindge, in October 2005. After this six-month trial period proved successful, the company moved into a further five farm shops the following year.

Simply picked up a Qual-

The BIG Interview

Business editor **Simon Robinson** talks to intrepid entrepreneur and mum-of-four Sally Newall, who is aiming to take her Simply Ice Cream brand to a national audience after success which has seen the company double its turnover year on year since it started in her kitchen in 2005



ity Food Award in 2007 and gained huge exposure when TV chef James Martin featured its product on the morning cookery show Saturday Kitchen, declaring it to be 'the best-bought ice cream available'.

Mrs Newall said: "We were still making the ice cream in my kitchen, producing between the hours of 9pm and 1am after we'd put the kids to bed.

"But at that point, interest in us began to stretch further, across the South East, up to London and beyond, and so we thought 'Let's go for it'.

"In 2009 we went into another 70 outlets in the region as well as Waitrose – 15 outlets to begin with and an additional 25 by Christmas that year."

The producer's dual role as entrepreneur and mother seems to have moulded her business temperament.

While she is clearly proud of her range of products and keen to take it to the next stage, maintaining the right family balance is of equal concern.

"The fact I've got four children is one of the most important things to me – I've got to make sure they are happy first and foremost, so

working from home enables me to be here for them, but I also need to be aware that I don't jeopardise our home and future in any way. For that reason we've ensured the business is self-sustainable.

"We started up quite slowly with the mantra 'If we can't afford to do it we don't do it', which has probably inhibited how fast we've grown, but I'd rather have consolidated and fulfilled orders before moving on to the next level.

"To date it's worked. We have not had any moments where we've thought 'We can't do this'. And because we've got a strong business without any loans we have not got any real risks."

Growth has been consistent. The business, with its kitchen moonlighting beginnings, has been transferred into a converted ice-cream factory in the family home.

This investment was made after Mrs Newall's painstaking trial and feedback procedure had given her confidence that she could compete with the big boys.

"When we began to concentrate on the business in 2008 there were 1,200 ice-cream manufacturers in England alone, not counting those in Scotland and Wales.

"The market is fiercely competitive, so when we decided to launch our ice cream proper we knew we had to keep it luxurious, as it had been at our catering parties. If we had diluted our ingredients we would have been just like everyone else and gone against our original ethos of making hand-made ice cream from natural ingredients.

"I think it was really important for us to keep with that idea. It would be very easy for us now to start making ice cream with emulsifiers, glucose, fructose or guar gum to make it more scoopable and easier to manage, but if we did that we would just be like everyone else. We've stuck with what we started with."

This cautious approach to the market has seemingly paid off for Simply, with brand awareness on the up and perceived brand value remaining high.

Mrs Newall said: "We have built up a high level of consumer loyalty. A lot of our customers say once they had tried our ice cream nothing else matches it, which is lovely to hear.

"When you start a business, and especially if you're making something, it's all well and good for friends and family to say it's a great product, but it's crucial to get feedback from people you don't know.

"The trial period was so important because had we gone into a farm shop and it hadn't worked we would not have pursued it – even if we felt the product was good.

"If the consumers hadn't bought it, there would have been no point in carrying on with it. It was only because the consumers' feedback was good that we were spurred on."

Having tasted huge success with her ice-cream business, and apparently on the verge



TASTE DIVINE: Only natural ingredients go into Simply Ice Cream's range; emulsifiers are not used to make it easier for a diner to scoop

of even more, Mrs Newall's only tinge of regret is that the company was not the family-bonder she had hoped it would be.

"The catering business was taking up all of our weekends, what with weddings and functions of that nature," she said.

"As our children got a bit older they were saying 'We never see you on weekends' and so

I thought if I sell ice cream during the week we can stop the catering business and get our weekends back.

"Of course, this was incredibly naïve, as we're still doing the catering side and now we're attending weekend food-trade shows across the region as well.

"I'm probably working harder now than I've ever worked."



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TUBS OF SUCCESS: Simply Ice Cream is thriving in a competitive market which had 1,200 manufacturers in England alone in 2008

EMPLOYMENT

Estate agents launch job site

NATIONAL estate-agency brand Your Move has launched a dedicated careers website to support the firm's latest recruitment drive.

The site – which currently has 75 positions available – also provides testimonials from staff and outlines potential job roles on offer, with the aim being to give visitors a more comprehensive understanding of what it might be like to work for the company.

Area sales manager Jackie Davies said she was delighted Your Move was bucking the trend of cutbacks by expanding the business.

"It's great that, despite the challenges of the current market, we are now actively recruiting more staff," she said.

"A sign, we believe, of its ongoing success and our sheer determination to remain one of the best in the business."

"With Your Move staff retention also being high, we would say it's a career path certainly worth considering."

For more information, visit www.propertyjobs.your-move.co.uk.

GROWTH

Awards reward pioneering firms

UP-and-coming firms are invited to enter the Fast Growth Business Awards.

The competition, which rewards the most pioneering businesses that demonstrate significant growth and entrepreneurial flair, is open to any UK business that has been trading for at least two years and has fewer than 500 employees.

Winners will be picked out by high-calibre entrepreneurs, including Richard Reed, behind Innocent drinks, and James Averdieck, of Gü Puds.

Growing Business's Ian Wallis said previous award-winners had gone on to enjoy huge success.

"The Fast Growth Business Awards never disappoint in terms of the ingenuity, ambition and hard graft of the companies that enter," he said. "The awards have a fantastic track record of picking out brands on the cusp of great things."

See www.growingbusiness.co.uk/fast-growth-business-awards.

EXPORTS

Rise reflects resurgence

TRADEMARK attorney Brookes Batchellor has registered a record increase in the amount of successful applications it has filed to protect the brands of South East companies.

The Tunbridge Wells business saw the number of Community Trademarks – which protect the brand across the European Union – filed in 2010 increase by 134 per cent.

This meteoric rise placed the firm at the top of the Institute of Trademark Attorneys annual league table when placed against comparable companies.

Brookes Batchellor's Jane Martin said: "It's great to have ranked so highly on this list not just because it records the fact that 2010 was a particularly good year for us, but because it means our clients – many of them local companies from Kent, Sussex and Surrey – are planning to expand and exploit their intellectual property on a European scale."

The firm specialises in protecting brands across the world.

Mixed opinions as inflation still rises



THE pressure on the Bank of England is seemingly linked with inflation – high and rising.

With inflation hitting 4.5 per cent last month – more than double the Government's 2 per cent target – there has been an increasing amount of calls from the City and wider business community to bring it into line by raising interest rates.

This strategy has gained extra backing as the months have gone by, during which time inflation has rocketed.

Members of the Bank's nine-man Monetary Policy Committee are also in favour of such a move but have so far been outvoted by their peers.

So should the Bank hold firm with its record low interest rates, assuming that inflation will head towards the 2 per cent target in due course? Or is action needed now? Business Week asked Kent firms for their views...

■ Priory Business Group director Bob Pitman said: "It only seems a short time ago that our substantial cash deposits were producing a healthy income in their own right."

"Sadly, they are now earning so little interest that any opportunity that presents itself to gain commercial advantage from them is taken. This is, of course, exactly what the country needs – cash put into the economy, not stashed away."

"Much of the prevailing inflationary pressures are beyond our direct control. Energy

prices will continue to rise irrespective of local duties. I believe the current tack needs to be maintained at least until the end of the year."

■ Bizezia managing director Martin Pollins said: "The base rate has been 0.5 per cent since March 2009."

"The gap between base rate [0.5 per cent] and actual interest charged [average more than 12 per cent] is now more than 11.5 per cent or 23 times base rate."

"If you go back to August 2007 – the recognised start of the credit crunch – base rate was 5.75 per cent, but actual rates being charged were 8.6 per cent – a gap of only 2.85 per cent or about half of base rate. Today lenders want a profit margin of 11.5 per cent, whereas before the credit crunch they managed comfortably on 2.85 per cent."

"How banks can use base rate as a weapon to pay so

little on deposits while taking advantage of borrowers is beyond comprehension."

■ Castle Corporate Finance director Mike Norrie said: "Inflation is fed by higher commodity prices – imports, not consumer demand. Increased interest rates should boost sterling and make imports cheaper – lower inflation."

"The cost of an interest rate rise is relative. Banks have been increasing their margins on loans. A commercial debt fixed at 5.5 per cent above base will actually give an 8 per cent increase where base rate is increased to 1 per cent."

"For many UK businesses, reductions in costs and inflation would make the increase in debt costs worthwhile."

"Businesses and consumers have spent three years reducing debt – the focus now is on building economic stability. So, reluctantly, a small increase."

Invest in a more successful future

A SERIES of leadership and management training courses is being offered to business bosses across the county.

The interactive and practical sessions will focus on improving financial performance, staff management and innovation.

John Telfer, managing director of IBP, right, which is running the events, said: "These courses will be as flexible as possible in terms of content, enabling attendees to present real-life problems to the course leaders."

The workshops will all be held at the event centre at the County Showground, Detling. All of the courses can be accessed with the help of Government funding through the leadership and management skills training grant, which can provide up to £1,000 in match-funding.

Mr Telfer urged businesses to sign up. "Unfortunately, people tend to cut training budgets in this kind of economic climate, but it is important to invest in your staff to ensure future success," he said. "With funding available, it makes sense to find new, cost-effective ways of



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myTsafes Central

This account is open to multiple users.

It enables any group of people working or acting together in some way to store information in one place with all the same features of security, accessibility and communication as myTsafes.

These could be people working together but in different businesses or, say, a sports club.

Regain control over who reads your email

ONLINE expert myTsafes is urging companies to take email security seriously.

The Faversham firm wants businesses to guard their online actions as tightly as they would their bank account or passport details.

The message comes after a rise in cyber-crime, with crimes relating to email and web-based security now estimated to cost UK business more than £27 million per year.

And with more and more businesses choosing to send sensitive information via email, myTsafes set to work on finding a cost-effective way to make it secure.

The firm's myTsafes system, developed over a five-year period, provides users with secure online storage for their documents and a range of additional safety features.

Managing director Gulliver Immink said there was a real need for the product, which operates out of The Bunker, a military-grade nuclear bunker and secure data-site near Sandwich.

"Mobile phones, laptops and memory sticks carry huge amounts of information – email is everywhere," he said.

"But people lose things, information goes walkabout, email is not



BE SECURE: Do you know who else is reading your electronic data?

secure at all, and the consequences of information getting into the wrong hands can be dire.

"We more and more frequently read of Government departments, the police, MOD and many others losing vital information because disks, laptops or memory sticks are 'lost in the post' or just go missing.

"We don't hear very often about the ordinary person, though, or even smaller businesses who have exactly the same problems, but they are being increasingly affected on a daily basis and it is costing thousands in lost revenues and costs."

For further information, email Gulliver.immink@mytsafes.com.

Be friendly and make the most of the networks

WITH an estimated 865 million users on social media sites, it's more important than ever for businesses to work with these free tools to engage such a large potential audience.

Laura Jones, of MCM Net (www.mcmnet.co.uk), has some simple tips that can help you grow your social presence, increase brand awareness and get your company talked about.



1. It's a two-way conversation

Avoid pitfalls such as sending out self-promoting messages and instead provide content to engage your audience. Ask questions, retweet on Twitter and comment on topics in your industry. Opt for communication with your target market rather than hard-selling if you want to keep 'followers' and 'likes' on the increase.

2. Company pages

Set up a company profile on Facebook and LinkedIn. There are sections to enter the services you offer, to upload images and to get others to recommend your work. It's free, easy and often appears on a Google search. Even if you just put up a team photo, it's worth the effort.

3. Get interactive

Major corporations such as Starbucks incorporate videos, blog posts and photos. Their success is not down to luck. Offer a visually exciting space, and users are more likely to feedback to you.

4. Provide value

If it's feasible, offer a prize or proposition for your audience. Examples include a free website appraisal for the 100th follower or a free goodie bag for the first 'like' on Facebook. Offering something different to your competitors will get you heard.

5. Different strokes

It's important to remember that each social network is different. For example, LinkedIn is mainly a network for business relationships, while Twitter is generally more informal. Try to tailor your posts to suit the arena you are placing it in – and you'll probably get a better response.

6. Stay aware

Of course, there are hundreds of social networks, and the ones mentioned only scratch the surface of the industry. It's worth looking into a few lesser-known networks such as Digg and Reddit, too, if you're keen to get mentioned more in online searches.

Are you prepared for a technological disaster?

IN these hi-tech times it takes significantly less than a full-blown act of God to bring a business's productivity to a complete halt.

A once-seemingly trivial internet connection problem or computer system error is now as potentially damaging to a company's ability to work as a full-blown fire or flood.

Which is why Sota Solutions is urging SMEs across the county to consider their business-continuity contingency plans.

The firm has recently opened a 100-seat back-up office at its Kent Science Park base.

The disaster recovery (DR) facility – also known as workplace recovery – is available to businesses on

packages as small as just five seats and enables customers to continue their working operations should the need arise.

Sota Solutions managing director Paul Cowham said this service was not available to SMEs anywhere else across Kent.

"It's completely unique," he said.

"There is very limited commercial workplace recovery in the region full stop. So the fact we're opening that up to the lower end of the market – that's unique.

"SMEs have not been offered workplace recovery in the past at all, whereas the high end of the market is well established.

"Small businesses have been

focusing on getting their IT operational and have not necessarily thought about how reliant they have become on it and what they would do if for some reason they no longer had access to their computers and data.

"It's an educational process for us now to make businesses aware of the risks they are taking and what they can do to avoid those risks."

The DR facility is housed in the same building as Sota's third on-site data centre, fitted out last year at a cost of £1.5 million.

Businesses can store their back-up information in the hi-spec facility, an offer that Mr Cowham says goes hand-in-hand with DR services.

"It's a naturally-connected

concept," he said. "If a client is looking to locate its back-up infrastructure in data centre, they are going to be interested in the concept of workplace recovery as well – and vice versa.

"Being in the same location, there are obvious benefits, particularly with reference to connectivity.

"You could have an office anywhere in the countryside as your standby office, but if the connectivity is not right there's no point moving there."

Sota Solutions began trading as an accountancy software company, before customer demand for associated hardware saw it move into the engineering side of the IT industry.

The firm grew through the 1990s

before finally offering a complete IT service – from data storage through to a total IT solution.

Sota's first data centre, built at the behest of a broadband internet provider in exchange for building a new node at KSP, proved popular with technology-minded customers looking to protect their information.

Rack space in the second facility was expected to take five years to fill. It was full in just two years. The third centre, which opened three months ago, is already 10 per cent full and that figure is expected to rise to a quarter by the end of the year. The DR side is at 25 per cent of capacity.

Visit www.sota.co.uk for more information on the facilities.

Keep Kent Working!
It's jobs for Kent

Dental nurse honoured at awards bash

A DENTAL nurse from Ramsgate has been awarded a licentiate ship to the City & Guilds of London Institute – one of the vocational learning organisation's highest accolades.

Hayley Stout received the honour alongside 14 other people from across the UK in recognition of their "exceptional professional achievements".

A licentiate ship (LCGI) is broadly comparable to the level of an NVQ4 foundation degree in engineering technician or supervisory management, and is used to promote professional development in the key skills shortage area.

Hayley said: "It was such an honour to receive my award. As I had gone straight from school into the workplace I had long given up on a graduation and ceremony, so it was wonderful to have all my hard work recognised and celebrated."

"Since I have gained my LCGI my career path has really opened up in front of me, and I have progressed beyond anyone's expectations."

"It gave me a chance to jump more than a few rungs on my career ladder, and I couldn't be happier."

City & Guilds is the UK's largest vocational educational charity for work-related qualifications, with almost two million people currently studying in the UK and Ireland.

The awards ceremony – held at the Merchant Taylors' Hall in London – was also attended by 15 graduates from overseas including Bahrain, Bermuda, Dubai, Ghana and Nigeria.

City & Guilds chief executive Chris Jones said: "We are extremely proud of the accomplishments of all our learners. Reaching this stage in their careers requires lots of dedication and hard work, and for that we congratulate them."

"We regard our senior award holders as members of our wider family and hope they share in our vision to create a more proficient and sustainable economy through vocational learning. They are our ambassadors."



New skills required for winds of change

By Steve Knight

steve.knight@archant.co.uk

YOUNG engineers are being encouraged to consider a career in wind turbines to capitalise on the growing demand for renewable energy sources.

With the Kent coast already home to three major offshore wind farms in the form of London Array, Kentish Flats and Thanet Offshore, there has never been a better time to get involved in the industry.

Eager to find the engineers of the future, the Danish company Dong Energy recently launched eight wind turbine technical apprenticeships at the Swale Skills Centre in Sittingbourne.

Those put on the scheme will benefit from a new wing at the centre, which was officially opened at the end of last month by the minister for further education, skills and lifelong learning, John Hayes.

Also in attendance were Dong vice-president Peter Gedbjerg, Kent County Council leader Cllr Paul Carter, and Sittingbourne and Sheppey Tory MP Gordon Henderson.

Mr Henderson said: "I am delighted that once again my constituency is leading the way."

"Wind turbine energy is a growing industry. However, the skills needed to repair and maintain wind turbines are simply not available in the UK."

"The new wing at the Swale Skills Centre and the eight new apprenticeships will help address this shortfall."

Last month, Vestas Wind Systems announced it had identified an area at the Port of Sheerness as the ideal place for a production centre to build its new supersize turbines, with the potential to create about 2,000 jobs and provide a huge

boost to the local economy.

The new V164-7.0MW turbine is twice as powerful as those that sit off the coast of Thanet, and its blade span is the same as the London Eye.

Cllr Carter spoke of the benefits of wind technology when he attended a meeting to discuss how low-carbon and green energy projects can help to grow the Kent economy.

He said: "With the largest coastal strip of any country, offshore wind is Kent's main development opportunity for this sector."

"We have recently heard some very encouraging news from Vestas – the world's largest offshore turbine manufacturer – with their announcement of up to 2,000 potential jobs at a new manufacturing and assembly plant at Sheerness."

"Three offshore wind projects – Kentish Flats, Thanet Offshore and London Array – with operational bases in Kent would provide more than 125 jobs with the potential for another 650 jobs by 2020."

The Vestas deal is reliant on support from the Government in helping to generate business from wind farm companies.

This includes assurances of dedication to the wind industry and that planning applications for offshore projects and the enabling infrastructure will be made quickly to increase investor confidence.

The Government is said to be "very keen" to help.



What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good news story email steve.knight@archant.co.uk or give him a call on 01303 817136.

ENERGY: Offshore wind farms are becoming an increasingly common sight in Kent



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Troubled youths given anti-arson messages through safety course

KENT Fire and Rescue Service has teamed up with the security firm G4S to tackle issues relating to arson and anti-social behaviour.

Five young people from the Medway Secure Training Centre in Borstal, near Rochester, took part in a five-week programme which included sessions on road accidents.

Ian Grieves from Kent Fire's youth diversion team said: "Our main aims were to increase educational awareness

and personal responsibility – themes which underpin all our work with young people – but speaking to a group such as this was a first and we're all very pleased at how it went."

To mark the completion of the scheme the youngsters were invited to Maidstone fire station to witness a car-cutting demonstration.

Jim Connolly, head of professional standards at the training centre, said: "The project has been a real success and the

young people have gained a tremendous amount from the experience, which I am sure they will take with them in the future.

"The success of the project owes a great deal to the exciting and challenging way the fire officers were able to engage with the group and get them to invest in some really important messages.

"This is definitely something we would like to replicate in the future with other groups."

Flower show success for iPad student

A MEDIA production student from Maidstone contributed to a gold medal-winning display at the Chelsea Flower Show.

Sean Carr, who is currently studying for a BA (Hons) at the University of Lincoln, created an iPad application to compliment Interflora's creation at the event.

The brief was to build a fully-branded app that would be able to display images and videos as well as host a fully-operational mobile site.

It sat alongside a floral installation called A Sense of Perspective, which was designed by artist David Denyer and consisted of nine seven-foot doorways adorned with many thousands of flowers.

Sean said: "I'm really chuffed to bits. This was my first app so I was surprised and delighted it was used at such a high profile event."

His tutor Ros Garland – senior lecturer within Lincoln's School of Media and a specialist in digital media technology – added: "Working on this sort of project in the second year of an undergraduate degree gives the student confidence and some professional experience going into level three.

"Sean is already researching new ways of creating apps and suggesting solutions using the new iPad technologies."

Interflora is one of the largest and oldest flower delivery services in the world.

The Chelsea Flower Show project came about when David Clancy – a video producer for the firm – put out the call for a student to produce



TALENTED: Sean Carr designed an iPad app

an iPad app as the finishing touch for the company's installation.

He said: "Sean was great to work with, very mature in his approach and able to respond well to our requirements.

"I'm certain he enjoyed the experience and learned a lot from it, and I wouldn't hesitate in working with him again.

"The apps were used by thousands of people across the week and feedback was very good."

More than 150,000 people attend the Chelsea Flower Show every year.

Cookery school provides food for thought with range of new courses

A NEW purpose-built cookery school opened at Ashford's Secret Garden restaurant this week.

The school will offer both novice and experienced cooks a choice of 21 courses that will run throughout the year.

Each course, which caters for up to 12 people, is run by a trained head chef and includes practical demonstrations, advice, recipe ideas and seasonal inspiration.

Some will also include a

three-course lunch with wine and the opportunity to taste treats cooked throughout the day.

Stephanie Wanstall owns the Secret Garden with husband Douglas.

She said: "Cooking has become an increasingly popular passion and hobby for many people, and the best way to learn and improve your skills is to watch how the professionals do it and have a go yourself.

"We have a range of courses

for all levels of cook, and it is a great way to meet like-minded people from the local area and further afield, all in a tranquil and beautiful setting.

"All our courses are very hands-on and very practical, and maximise the use of the best local and seasonal produce."

Day courses run from 9.30am-4pm and cost from £39. Evening and half-day courses are also available. Visit www.secretgardenkent.co.uk.

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For more information, please contact the Training Solutions Team on 01843 605032 or email training.solutions@thanet.ac.uk





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NVQ Level 3 or equivalent in Health & Social Care
PTLLS or equivalent teaching qualification
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United Church Schools Trust
The Joint Endeavour



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES

37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

SALARY SCALE: £37,505 - 43,336

An exciting opportunity has arisen for Thanet College to recruit a dynamic Head of Human Resources.

Thanet College is looking for an experienced and highly skilled HR professional to be responsible for the strategic leadership and management of an outstanding Human Resource Service to the College

The successful candidate will ideally be CIPD qualified and have successful leadership experience within an HR capacity

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'Vacancies'. Alternatively contact the HR Office, Thanet College, Ramsgate Road, Broadstairs, Kent, CT10 1PN or telephone our application line for an application pack on (01843) 605052

Job reference: HBR001
Closing date: 29 June 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



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teachers from only **£155 +VAT**

01622 623114

www.recruitmentsense.com



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

SKILLS PRACTITIONER - PLASTERING

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and students and undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies

SALARY SCALE: £8,567 - £10,123 FOR 18.5 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'.

If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Wednesday 29th June 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancy available:

FACILITIES TEAM LEADER

SALARY SCALE: £19,659 - £23,040 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK ALL YEAR

To support the Head of Facilities in the running of the colleges Facilities / goods in Departments.

This role will provide guidance and information to staff regarding everyday operations and assist in the execution of college's facilities duties. This is very much, a hands on role and can be very demanding at times, working closely with the college maintenance and support teams to ensure that continuity of service is maintained across the Facilities division.

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'.

If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: : Wednesday 15th June 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



Changing the way we do business

CORPORATE CONTRACTS OFFICER (FINANCIALS)

£30,210 to £35,685

Shepway District Council is creating a new and exciting role to make sure that professional financial support and robust contract management is in place so that value for money, quality and risk are effectively managed to ensure that we get best outcomes for our residents.

The successful applicant will be working with the Corporate Contracts Manager to monitor the council's contracts. This post will be the lead finance support in the newly created Client Unit. The post holder should have experience of using financial modelling tools to assist with business decisions. The main responsibility will be that of compliance, working across the organisation with clients, public sector partners and contractors in ensuring that they are delivering to high standards against agreed service level agreements and contract requirements.

The responsibilities of the Client Unit will increase over time and this is an ideal time for an individual with the necessary experience looking for a new challenge to join the council.

Candidates may have public sector experience but the value that they can bring in modern, flexible and effective contract management as well as outstanding relationship management will be of more interest. A financial qualification, minimum AAT or equivalent, is essential to undertake complex financial modelling and knowledge of either human resources/payroll or housing services is desirable.

For an informal discussion about this post please contact **Louise Birch**, on **01303 853332**.

Application details can be downloaded at www.shepway.gov.uk.

Alternatively, email hrpartnership@doover.gov.uk or call **01304 872799** for an application pack.

Closing date for completed applications is: **Wednesday 22 June 2011**

Interview dates: **Monday 4 July and Tuesday 5 July 2011**

Folkestone

Hydra & Recovery Month

Hydra & Recovery Month

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RAISING ASPIRATIONS - DEVELOPING SKILLS - DELIVERING QUALITY

We are seeking outstanding individuals to join our highly qualified, experienced and motivated teams, many of whom have come from industry. We offer our students the best learning and training experience and we have the following vacancies available:

NETWORK & SYSTEMS TEAM LEADER

As Line Manager to the Network Support and Reporting Team, you will lead this team in maintaining, supporting and developing the College network infrastructure.

SALARY SCALE: £25,589 - £30,205 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

STUDENT ENTITLEMENT MANAGER

To lead and manage the cross College implementation of the Learner Involvement Strategy, student entitlement, progression support and enrichment.

SALARY SCALE: £33,917 - £38,358 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK, ALL YEAR

PROGRAMME LEADER - HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE

With responsibility for course leadership of Access to Health and Social Care programmes, this role is key to ensuring a well-organised high quality course or study programme that effectively meets the needs of the learners.

SALARY SCALE: £29,413 - £34,817 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK ALL YEAR

SKILLS PRACTITIONER - PAINTING & DECORATING

To provide Learning/Technical support to staff and learners within the Division and to undertake assessment and quality assurance duties as required by the College and awarding bodies.

SALARY SCALE: £17,133 - £20,246 FOR 37 HOURS PER WEEK ALL YEAR

For further details and to apply online please visit our website www.thanet.ac.uk and click on 'About Us', then 'Vacancies'.

If you require assistance please telephone our application line an (01843) 605052

Closing date for the above posts: Friday 17th June 2011

Promoting Equality Preventing Discrimination



Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College is passionate about student success. We are seeking to appoint outstanding individuals to teach at our new campus in Medway and our Maidstone Campus.

Programme Area Leader - Beauty Therapy

Ref: P0001

Salary: £26,336 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

We are seeking an exceptional candidate to join our highly successful Services to People Faculty and provide support to the Head of Faculty on all staffing, student, curriculum and quality issues. The successful candidate will be able to demonstrate a significant level of competence in Teaching and Learning and have good motivational and communication skills. Post holder will hold, be willing to work towards a recognised teaching qualification. This is a great opportunity to join a Grade 1 team dedicated to student success and progression.

Lecturer in Human Resources and Management

Ref: P0422

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
25.9 hours per week • Maidstone

MidKent College has a long history of successfully preparing candidates for the very demanding CIPD national examinations and the rigorous requirements of the CMI programmes. We are now looking for someone who is committed to excellence in teaching to join the team. The successful candidate will have extensive professional experience in HRM and be able to use that experience to enhance their credibility in the classroom. Ideally you will be a Chartered Member of the CIPD but candidates in the final stages of gaining chartered status will also be considered.

Lecturer in Performing Arts - Dance

Ref: M0071

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week • Fixed Term Maternity Cover • Medway Campus

We are looking for a knowledgeable, skilled and inspirational Lecturer to teach Dance within our successful Performing Arts Department. Taking full advantage of the fantastic facilities at our new Medway Campus, the successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching of programmes at Levels 2 & 3 and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Production Arts

Ref: P0510

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
18.5 hours per week • Medway Campus

We are seeking an experienced and knowledgeable Lecturer to join our Production Arts department. The successful candidate will have an all-round knowledge of the technical elements of theatre and experience of teaching lighting and sound to students in Further or Higher Education. Teaching on our Level 3 Production Arts pathway, they will contribute fully to departmental productions and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Communication Studies

Ref: P0273

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

We are seeking an inspirational and experienced Lecturer to teach Communication Studies and English with Sociology within the Higher and Academic Studies Faculty. The successful candidate will contribute to the development, delivery and teaching on A level and Access courses and will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification. Full time and part time roles available - please specify your preference on your application form.

Lecturer in Animal Care

Ref: P0141

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

The ideal candidate will be an enthusiastic and experienced individual to join our Animal Care Department. They will contribute to the delivery and success of courses from Entry to Level 3, using the excellent facilities available. The successful candidate will hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Lecturer in Biology

Ref: P0538

Salary: £21,061 - £34,005 (Dependent on qualifications and experience) • Medway Campus

We are looking to recruit a skilled Lecturer to contribute to the success of the Higher and Academic Studies Faculty delivering A level, GCSE and Access courses. The ideal candidate will be an inspirational teacher, have a relevant first degree within the subject area and hold, or be willing to work towards, a recognised teaching qualification.

Front Line Events Co-ordinator

Ref: P0450

Salary: £15,891 - £19,464 pro rata (Dependent on qualifications and experience)
22.2 hours per week • Medway Campus

The MidKent College Frontline customer service programme is a unique, award-winning course giving students first-hand experience of customer service delivery at local and national events. We are seeking an exceptional individual who is able to work flexibly to organise, develop and deliver events and activities with our students. The successful candidate will have a strong track record in an events organisation or a related customer service field. They will understand the importance of personal presentation and be able to develop a strong customer service ethos among students. Excellent communication skills and an ability to work with a variety of people are essential. A teaching, training or customer service qualification is desirable.

Closing date: 12 noon Friday 24 June 2011

Candidates are encouraged to visit the College prior to interview/application. Please contact Human Resources on 01634 383511 to arrange.

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants. For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

For an application pack and further details visit www.midkent.ac.uk or e mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk. Alternatively you may contact Human Resources on 01634 383102.

The College is committed to safeguarding children and young people therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.





Qualified Teachers Urgently Required

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Throughout Kent & SE London

Run by Teachers for Teachers

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Accredited on behalf of the Department for Education

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Capita Education Resourcing is the leading provider of educational staff throughout the UK.

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- ✓ Free use of resource centre
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Even if you can only spare one day a week we would love to hear from you.

To find out more information and to register with us, please call us free on: **0800 731 6871** or email enquiry.ers@capita.co.uk

CAPITA
EDUCATION RESOURCING
(Agi) Committed to equal opportunities



English as a Foreign Language Teacher

Required for September 2011

We are seeking to recruit a Teacher of EAL to teach pupils from Year 7 up to the 6th Form. Please contact Mrs Vassie Henderson for an application form and full details of the post.

Completed forms, together with a full CV including names and addresses of 2 referees, should be sent to Headmaster's Office, Dover College, Effingham Crescent, Dover, Kent CT17 9RH.

Dover College is an equal opportunity employer. Dover College is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and the selected individual will be subject to Criminal records Bureau checks at the enhanced level, in accordance with Child Protection legislation.

Tel: 01304 244 501
Email: vassie@dovercollege.org.uk
www.dovercollege.org.uk



Daring to be different!

The Specialist College for Arts, Sport and Engineering.

One of the most rapidly improving schools in Kent.
5+ A-C English & Maths from 27% to 50%
and 5+ A-C from 60% to 85% in the last 3 years.
Roll increased from 950 to 1,400 in 5 years (including 300 in Post 16 Centre).

REQUIRED FOR SEPTEMBER 2011

TEACHER OF BUSINESS

(2 days per week - salary negotiable)

Are you an experienced businessman/woman who would like to teach Post 16 students Business Studies at Advanced Level?
Or...
Are you an inspirational Business Studies Tutor?

Committed to Child Protection and Safety.
Post subject to Enhanced CRB Disclosure.

For further details please contact Mrs Debbie Myers, Personnel Officer, on 01795 472449 or email debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

To apply, please send your letter of application and CV to Alan Barham, Headteacher, or email to debbie.myers@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk.

CLOSING DATE: 24-6-11

The Sittingbourne Community College
Swanstone Avenue, Sittingbourne, Kent ME10 4NL
Tel: 01795-472449 Fax: 01795-470332
Email: office@sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk
Web: www.sittingbourne.kent.sch.uk



Abbey Court School provides a stimulating, challenging and safe learning environment where pupils and staff efforts, work and achievement are celebrated.

We are currently looking for a

MUSIC THERAPIST

to join and enhance our high calibre team

Medway Scale B1 - point 27 to 36 (£22,958 to £30,011)
(Full time - term time only - pro rata)

Abbey Court School is located on 2 sites; Rainham (Nursery and Primary) and Strood (Secondary and Further Education), and caters for pupils aged 3-19 with Severe Learning Difficulties. We are looking for an enthusiastic and experienced Music Therapist, with a professional and flexible approach. In essence, somebody with an interest in an educational setting who would like to work in a school committed to enabling pupils to reach their full potential.

Working hours are 37 hours p/w, term time only. Candidates should hold a relevant Music Therapy qualification. Benefits include: Local Authority pension scheme, induction training, performance management programme and Continuous Professional Development. Visits to the school are welcomed.

Due to the conditions and complex needs of the pupils at Abbey Court School, continuity and consistency of support is paramount and therefore candidates for all positions will need to commit to the full working hours of the post.

This school is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment. Any offer of appointment for post is subject to a satisfactory Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure.

Closing Date: 24th June 2011

Interview Date: 4th July 2011

For an application pack, or to make an appointment to visit, please contact Mrs Linda Taylor, Business Manager, Abbey Court School, Rede Court Road, Strood, Kent, ME2 3SP (01634 338236), stating the position for which you are applying.

Please note CV's will not be accepted.

PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Borough of Tunbridge Wells

NOTICE OF THE MAKING OF AN ORDER TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE PUBLIC FOOTPATH WS21 IN THE PARISH OF SOUTHBOROUGH

(Public Footpath WS21 in the Parish of Southborough)

(Prohibition Of Traffic) Temporary Order 2011

Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, Section 14(1), As Amended By The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Act 1991

Kent County Council has temporarily closed Public Footpath WS21, between Andrew Road and Barnetts Way from the 31st May 2011.

The path will be closed for a maximum of six months, although it is expected that it will reopen before 13th June 2011.

The path is to be closed because works are planned under the path and there is a likelihood of danger to users.

The alternative route is along the footway from Barnetts Way to Andrew Road and will be signed for the duration of the closure.

For detailed enquiries please contact Jonathan Bibby
Tel: (01732) 872829 ext 8

Countryside Access Service
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XX

Dated: 10th June 2011

The above notice may be provided in other formats

For further information, please contact
Kent Countryside Access Service, on 0845 345 0210 (Mon-Fri 8am-8pm) or visit www.kent.gov.uk/countrysideaccess



THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/11/0627/S - HEADCORN AERODROME, SHENLEY ROAD, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9HX - Variation of condition 7 of MA/77/1559 to hold an aerial display on 14th & 15th August 2010, to include Battle of Britain Memorial Flight, one Mustang, The Tiger Club, Turb Team, the Bi-wing Formation, in total 6 sorties each day. **Reason: 7, 10**

MA/11/0663/N - THE GRANARY, SMITHS FARM, HOLLINGBOURNE HILL, HOLLINGBOURNE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 1QJ - Erection of a single storey front extension to create corridor. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0701/N - 11, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - Change of use of first and second floors to form two self contained flats. **Reason: 1, 2**

MA/11/0702/N - 11, GABRIELS HILL, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 6HL - An application for listed building consent for works to facilitate the change of use of first and second floors to form two self contained flats. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0728/S - THE SHANT HOTEL, EAST SUTTON ROAD, EAST SUTTON, KENT, ME17 3DT - An application for a new planning permission to replace extant outline planning permission MA/04/1127 (Outline application for the redevelopment of the site to provide public house, hotel, restaurant, parking and garaging with means of access and siting including the reserved matters of design, external appearance and landscaping approved under application MA/04/1127/01) to allow a further five years in which to implement the development. **Reason: 6**

MA/11/0746/N - BELL HOUSE, THE GREEN, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4ED - Alteration to existing garage doors, removal of central brick pier between 2no. garage doors to form one larger opening with the installation of single 'up and over' metal garage door. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0747/N - BELL HOUSE, THE GREEN, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4ED - An application for listed building consent for the alteration to existing garage doors, removal of central brick pier between 2no. garage doors to form one larger opening with the installation of single 'up and over' metal garage door. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0753/N - THE TRINITY FOYER, 20, CHURCH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LY - An application for listed building consent for the installation of new ramps for disabled access to replace existing ramps to front and rear doors including raising the ground level. **Reason: 3**

MA/11/0768/S - 3, PAYNES LANE, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME15 9QT - Erection of single storey rear extension as shown on drawing nos. BDS-135-01 & 02 received 12/05/11. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0778/S - HILL PLACE, LINTON HILL, LINTON, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME17 4AL - Erection of 2.4m high acoustic fencing and replacement gates. **Reason: 1**

MA/11/0789/N - THE TRINITY FOYER, 20, CHURCH STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LY - Installation of new ramps for disabled access to replace existing ramps to front and rear doors including raising the ground level. **Reason: 1, 2**

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.
- 7 - Application affects a Public Right of Way.
- 10 - Application is of general Public Interest.



Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **26th June 2011**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. **Dated:** 12th June 2011

PREMISES/ GOODS LICENCES

Notice of an Application for the Variation of a Premises Licence (Licensing Act 2003)

Notice is hereby given that Mr F & Mrs M Berisha has applied to Ashford Borough Council for the Variation of a Premises Licence for Various Regulated Entertainments & Sale of Alcohol 10:00-00:00, Late Night Refreshments 23:00-00:00 Remove Embedded Conditions for the premises Croft Hotel situated at Canterbury Road, Kennington, Ashford, TN25 4DU.

A register of licensing applications can be viewed at the Licensing Section, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent TN23 1PL 01233 330721 by appointment.

Any person wishing to submit representations to this application must give notice in writing to the address shown above, giving in detail the grounds of objection by 18th June 2011.

The Council will not entertain representations where the writer requests that his identity remains anonymous. Copies of all representations will be included in the papers presented to the Licensing Panel and will therefore pass into the public domain. Representations must relate to one or more of the four Licensing Objectives: The prevention of crime and disorder, Public Safety, the Prevention of Public Nuisance and the Protection of Children from Harm.

It is an offence, liable on conviction to a fine up to level 5 on the standard scale (£5000), under Section 158 of the Licensing Act 2003 to make a false statement in or in connection with this application.

LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT (MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS) ACT 1982 LICENSING OF SEX ESTABLISHMENT

Notice is hereby given that an application is being made to Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council by Tracey Jane Whitmore, 4B Darroets Road, Walderslade, Chatham, Kent ME5 8BH, for the renewal of a licence for a Sex Shop at the premises known as Vibez UK Ltd, situated at Unit 3, 2M Trade Park, Beddow Way, Aylesford, Kent ME20 7BT.

Any comments/objections to the application should be made in writing to The Chief Solicitor Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Hill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ, by no later than 10th July 2010.

PLANNING

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION TOWN AND COUNTRY PLANNING (DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT PROCEDURE) (ENGLAND) ORDER 2010 NOTICE UNDER ARTICLE 13

KCC/AS/0256/2011 - Proposed development at Land at Waterbrook Park, Waterbrook Avenue, Sevington, Ashford, Kent, TN24 0GB.

Robert Brett & Sons Ltd is applying to Kent County Council for planning permission for proposed minor re-alignment to approved site access intended to serve the waste transfer station permitted under ref: AS/06/4.

You may view this application at our office in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours. The application documents can also be viewed at the following locations:-

- a) Ashford Borough Council, Central Reception in the Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford
- b) The Gateway Centre, 14 Park Mall, Ashford
- c) Tenterden Gateway, 2 Manor Row, High Street, Tenterden

Alternatively, details of the application can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/planning.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 12 June 2011



BIRTHS, MARRIAGES AND DEATHS

Including family announcements in partnership with the Kent registration service

To register Births, Marriages and Deaths contact the Kent registration service on 0845 824 7400

For advertising announcement enquiries telephone Kent on Sunday 01303 817150

BIRTHS

ANDREWS
Simon and Rachael are delighted to announce the birth of their son Charlie Neil Andrews, born on 25th May, 2011, weighing 9lb 2oz. A grandson to Mary and Neil Andrews and Lesley Gaved and Geoff Farnsworth.

CAREY

Grace and Gary would like to announce the birth of their beautiful baby boy Lennon Thomas Carey. Born 22nd May, 2011.

FARRER

Jonathan and Carly of Canterbury proudly announce the birth of their son, Joshua Jon Farrer. Joshua was born on 20th May, 2011, at William Harvey Hospital Ashford. A new brother for Sophie.

HATTER

Jason and Tia celebrate the birth of their son Frazer William Jay who was born on 17th May, 2011, at Maidstone Hospital. Thank you to all our family and friends for their love and support.

HILL

Samuel born on 11th May, 2011, at 19.21 hours, weighing 7lb 9oz. Son to Joanne and Ian.

HODGE

Michelle and James of Broadstairs are delighted to announce the birth of their son Henry Edward Hodge, born on 15th May, 2011, weighing 8lb 10oz. A brother for Jean.

KUMAR

Ann and Anil Kumar celebrate the birth of their twins Eliza Mai and Evander Neo born on the 12th May, 2011. Sister and brother to Hayden Joshua Kumar.

LANGLANDS

Fletcher, born 27th May, 2011, weighing 10lb 5oz. Son to Phil and Michelle and brother to Thea and Iyla.

McKENNA

Laura and Andrew McKenna celebrate the birth of their son Aidan Lawrence McKenna at home in Folkestone on the 21st May, 2011, weighing 9lb10oz.

MEAD

Alfie born on 21st May, 2011, weighing 6lb 14oz. Son to Jack and Stacey.

PARRIS

Joanna and David Parris celebrate the birth of their son Toby John Parris on 18th May, 2011.

SEABROOK

Jonathan and Vivyan Seabrook celebrate the birth of their first born son Harry Jon on 22nd May, 2011, weighing 9lb 9oz.

SMITH

Sam and Hayley would like to welcome our

beautiful baby girl into the world. Daisy Marie Smith born on 3rd June, 2011, weighing 7lb 8oz. A beautiful sister for Lily Rose. xxx

SMITHSON

Donna and Ben Smithson celebrate the birth of their son Liam James Smithson, brother to Lauren born on 24th May 2011.

SZELAG

Maja Victoria born on 14th May, 2011, weighing 8lb 8oz. Daughter to Holly and Marcin of Folkestone.

TERRY

Briony and Stephen welcome their daughter Savannah Sarah Terry to the family, born on 21st May, 2011, brother to Maximus, weighing 8lb 6oz.

YALA-JU

Charles and Trudi are pleased to announce the arrival of their beautiful daughter Grace Eymisan who was born on 10th May, 2011. Proud grandparents are Mary and the late Samuel, Jean and Jim.

DEATHS

BLYTEHE

Victor Charles Frederick Blythe of Dover passed away peacefully on 28th May 2011. Funeral Service at Barham Crematorium at 2.40pm on 14th June, 2011. Vic will be sadly missed by family and friends. To live in the hearts of those left behind is to live forever.

GODDARD

Kenneth Charles Edward Goddard on 25th May, 2011, aged 79 years. Dearly loved father of Wendy and Peter, grandfather of Lyla and Mica. Funeral service at Barham Crematorium on the 15th June at 10am. Family flowers only. Donations may be made to Pilgrims Hospice, Canterbury.

POWELL

Derek Powell on the 4th June, 2011, aged 80 years. Dearly loved husband of Liz, father of Jan and Gary, father-in-law of Bob and Jo, grandfather of Matt, Liam and Tom. Late publican of The Windmill at Burham. Funeral at Vinters Park Crematorium 12.30 on Tuesday, 21st June, 2011. Family flowers only, all donations via Doves Funerals, will go to The Heart of Kent Hospice, Aylesford.

TUPPER

Debbie Tupper on the 27th May, 2011, aged 36 years. Beloved daughter of Edna and the late Brian, sister to David. Funeral service at St Pauls Church, Maidstone, at 12 noon on the 14th June. No flowers, all enquiries and any donations please contact Paul Rowland Funeral Services 01622 662661.

To place your notice here call the
Kent Public Notice team on
01303 817044

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Ashford

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (B2o8o THE STREET, APPLEDORE, ASHFORD) (SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called “the Act”) and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 2o of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will be to:

Revoke the existing 3omph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

B2o8o The Street – From its junction with Court Lodge Road and Station Road in a westerly direction for a distance of 498 metres.

And introduce a 3omph speed limit on the following lengths of road:-

B2o8o The Street – From its junction with Court Lodge Road and Station Road (Rhee Wall) in a northerly direction for a distance of 7o9 metres.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (A28 ASHFORD ROAD, BETHERSDEN) (SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called “the Act”) and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 2o of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will be to remove a section of the existing 4omph speed limit on the following roads or lengths of road:

A28, Ashford Road Bethersden

And introduce a 3omph speed limit on the following lengths of road:-

A28, Ashford Road from 11.5 metres south east of its entrance to Bean place, in a westerly direction, for a distance of approximately 1361 metres to a point 14.5 metres south west of the entrance to Beult Cottage.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.ashford.swale@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on 5th July 2011

A2o42 BAD MUNSTEREIFEL ROAD, ASHFORD (4o MPH SPEED LIMIT) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

For the safety of the public and workforce whilst water mains replacement works are carried out, Kent County Council has made an Order to impose a temporary mandatory speed limit of 4o mph on the eastbound carriageway of the A2o42 Bad Munstereifel Road, Ashford.

The section affected is from the junction with Romney Marsh Road to where it becomes designated as the A2o7o Trunk Road.

This Order comes into force on or after 19 June 2011 for up to 16 weeks or until the works have been completed.

BRIDGE STREET, WYE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of urgent carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bridge Street, Wye, on or after 19 June 2011 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the level crossing and the bridge over the river.

There will be no access for through traffic from Harville Road / Bramble Lane into the village of Wye.

The alternative route is via Bridge Street, Churchfield Way, High Street, Upper Bridge Street, Oxenturn Road, Naccolt Road, Hinxhill Road, The Street (Willesborough), A2o7o Kennington Road & Willesborough Road, A28 Canterbury Road and Harville Road.

FLOOD STREET, MERSHAM (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway surfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Flood Street, Mersham, on or after Saturday 2 July 2011 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

Flood Street (shown as Church Road on some maps) will be closed from Mersham Primary School to the junction with Blind Lane.

The alternative route is via Flood Street, South Stour Road, Cheeseman's Green Lane, Highfield Lane, Kingsford Street, The Street, Bower Road and Church Road.

POUND LANE, KINGSNORTH (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Pound Lane, Kingsnorth, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in sections along its entire length.

The alternative route is via Ashford Road, Britannia Lane and Millbank Road.

WIND HILL LANE, CHARING (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of water mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Wind Hill Lane, Charing, on or after 13 June 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Lodge Road and Egerton Road.

The alternative route is via Lodge Road and Egerton Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, CHILHAM) (PROHIBITION AND RESTRICTION OF TRAFFIC MOVEMENTS) ORDER 2011 ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

NOTICE is hereby given that the Kent County Council, in exercise of its powers under Sections 1 and 2 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, proposes to make an Order, the effects of which would be to:-

Extend the existing Width Restriction (6' 6") and Prohibition of Buses restrictions on the following lengths of road in the Parish of Chilham :-

Taylors Hill – from its junction with The Square, in a westerly direction for a distance of 178 metres.

Bagham Road – from its junction with Felborough Close in a south westerly direction for a distance of 126 metres.

Branch Road – for its entire length.

A copy of the proposed Order, an explanatory statement and a map showing the lengths of road concerned may be inspected during normal office hours in the offices of the Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ.

If you wish to support or object to the new proposal you should write to the Traffic Schemes and MHF Manager at Kent Highway Services, Unit 4 Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.ashford.swale@kent.gov.uk stating your reasons, by not later than 12 noon on 4 July 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Dover

CRABBLE AVENUE, DOVER (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Crabble Avenue, Dover, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 4 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Hillside Road and Crabble Road.

The alternative routes are

River-bound via Crabble Road, Crabble Hill, Buckland Avenue, Cherry Tree Avenue, London Road, Coombe Valley Road*, Barwick Road, St. Radigund's Road and Bunkers Hill Road

Dover-bound via Bunkers Hill Road, St Radigund's Road, Barwick Road, Coombe Valley Road*, London Road, Crabble Hill, Crabble Road

* Note that there is a height restriction of 13' 9" at the railway bridge in Coombe Valley Road.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (ALKHAM VALLEY ROAD, DRELLINGORE, DOVER) (5o MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 84 (1) (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 2o of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to extend the existing 5omph speed limit. The length of road described below encompasses the existing length of 5omph speed limit and the proposed new length of 5omph speed limit.

Name of Road	Length of Road
Alkham Valley Road	From the junction with Lockering Lane to a point 125 metres north east of the junction with Hockley Sole Lane

The Order was Sealed on 8th June 2011 and will come into force on 2o June 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a Statement of the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Whitfield, Dover, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, DOVER DISTRICT) (WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES) (AMENDMENT NO 5) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under sections 1(1), 2(1) to (3) 3(2), 4(1) and (2), 32(1), 35(1), 45, 46, 49, 53 and 124 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called “the Act”) and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 2o of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will be to reduce the existing limited waiting parking bays in Stanhope Road and High Street and to introduce two disabled persons parking bays in Stanhope road and High Street. The Order will also introduce a short section of loading restriction between 75 High Street and a point opposite the southern boundary of King Street.

A copy of the proposed Order and the relevant plans and other relevant documents may be inspected during normal office hours at Dover District Council, White Cliffs Business Park, Dover, Kent and Kent County Council, Sessions House, County Hall, Maidstone ME14 1XQ.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Gravesham

CHRISTIAN FIELDS AVENUE, GRAVESEND - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council intends to make an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Christian Fields Avenue, Gravesend for its entire length.

The Order will become effective on 27th June 2011, will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months; the works are planned to last 18 months. These restrictions will be effective when the appropriate signage is in place.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate demolition works and construction of new buildings.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Maidstone

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, BOXLEY) (5oMPH AND 4oMPH SPEED LIMITS AND RESTRICTED ROADS) (AMENDMENT NO.1) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Order under section 84 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called “the Act”) and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 2o of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act.

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce a 5o mph speed limit on the A229 Chatham Road, Boxley (northbound lane only) on the following length of road:

A229 Chatham Road (northbound lane only)	From a point 8om north of Springfield Roundabout to a point 45om north of the centre line of the splitter island at the access to Cobtree Golf Course
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Full details are contained in the draft Order which together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended by the proposals and a statement of the council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, may be examined on Monday to Friday at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX or at Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone Kent, ME15 8JQ

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send the grounds in writing to:

The Transportation and Development Manager, West Kent Area, Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Ashford, TN24 8AD by 12 noon on 5th July 2011

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (VARIOUS ROADS, FANT, MAIDSTONE) (WIDTH LIMIT) ORDER 2011

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 1(1)and (2) ,2(1) to (3), 3(2) and (4) of and part IV of Schedule 9 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 2o of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The Order will prohibit any vehicle, the width of which, inclusive of any load on the vehicle, exceeds 6 feet 6 inches, except for access, to proceed on the following length of road, subject to exemptions for emergency services, maintenance etc. and statutory undertakers carrying out work on the affected length of the road. Any vehicle authorised by the Highway Authority will also be exempt from the Order.

Lengths of Roads

Bower Lane	From the junction with A26 Tonbridge Road to the junction with Upper Fant Road	Hever Gardens	Entire Length
Bower Place	Entire Length	Orchard Place	Entire Length
Evelyn Road	Entire Length	Newton Close	Entire Length

The Order was Sealed on 3rd June 2011 and will come into force on 14th June 2011

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a Statement of the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone. Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House. Maidstone during normal opening times.

For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made the reunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

HIGHWAYS - District of Sevenoaks

COCKERHURST ROAD, SHOREHAM - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Cockerhurst Road, Shoreham between Redmans Lane and Kestle Farm Road.

The Order will become effective on 13th June 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 2 days.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Redmans Lane and Kestle Farm Road.

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of BT cable.

TWITTON LANE, OTFORD - (TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011 THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Notice is hereby given that owing to the likelihood of danger to the public whilst works are carried out on or near the highway the Kent County Council has made an Order restricting the use by vehicular traffic on Twitton Lane, Otford between Pilgrims Way West and Flston Lane.

The Order will become effective on 13th June 2011. It will be in operation and remain valid for a maximum period of 18 months. The restriction will be effective when required and when the appropriate signage is in place. The works are planned to last for 1 week.

The alternative route for the above restriction will be via: Pilgrims Way West and Flston Lane

The purpose of the closure is to facilitate replacement of decayed power lines and poles.

HIGHWAYS - District of Shepway

CHAPEL STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chapel Street, Hythe, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via A259 Rampart Road, Prospect Road and Bank Street.

SHIP STREET, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Ship Street, Folkestone, on or after 13 June 2011 for up to 12 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in 2 phases, initially between the junctions with Foord Road North and Boscombe Road, then from Boscombe Road to Bournemouth Road.

The alternative route is via Foord Road North, Radnor Park Road (plus Pavilion Road and Black Bull Road in reverse) and Bournemouth Road.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Swale

BEXON LANE, BREDGAR (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install telegraph poles, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bexon Lane, Bredgar, on or after 30 June 2011 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via The Street, Swanton Street, Bashford Barn Lane and Hawks Hill Lane.

NELSON AVENUE, MINSTER-ON-SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of excavations in the carriageway for a new electricity supply, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Nelson Avenue, Minster-on-Sea, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 5 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of no. 89.

The alternative route is via Elm Lane, Drake Avenue and Scoles Road.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(VARIOUS ROADS, RODMERSHAM, SWALE)
(30MPH SPEED LIMIT) ORDER 2011**

Notice is hereby given that KENT COUNTY COUNCIL has made the above named Order under Sections 84 (1) AND (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with Paragraph 20 of Schedule 9 to the Act:

The effect of the Order will be to introduce a 30mph speed limit in Rodmersham on the following roads or length of roads

Green Lane	Higsted Road	Cheney Hill
Stokers Hill	Cromers Road	Bottles Lane
Fruiterers Close	Higsted Valley	Brownings Orchard
Stokers Brow	Bottom Pond Road	

The Order was Sealed on 8 June 2011 and will come into force on 13 June 2011.

Full details are contained in the Order which, together with the relevant plans, any Orders amended and a Statement of the Councils reasons for making the Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

Any person wishing to question the validity of the Order or any of the provisions contained therein on the grounds that it is not within the powers of the relevant enabling Act or that any requirement of any such enabling Act or of any regulations made thereunder have not been complied with may within 6 weeks from the date on which the Order was made make application to the High Court for this purpose.

**THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL
(BOROUGH OF SWALE)
(VARIOUS ROADS, SITTINGBOURNE)
(WAITING RESTRICTIONS AND STREET PARKING PLACES)
(AMENDMENT NO. 1)
ORDER 2011**

Notice is hereby given that the KENT COUNTY COUNCIL proposes to make the above named Orders under section 84(1), (2) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984, (hereinafter called "the Act") and of all other enabling powers, and after consultation with the chief officer of police in accordance with paragraph 20 of Part III of Schedule 9 to the Act,

The effect of the proposed Order will introduce waiting restrictions on the following roads or lengths of road:

Sonora Way – Both sides, from its junction with Staplehurst Road, for a distance of 150 metres extending into the junction arms of Cinnibar Drive and Quartz Way.

Jacinth Drive – Both sides, from a point level with the western end of the traffic island outside 46 Jacinth Drive, in a north-westerly direction for a distance of 150 metres and 145 metres on its southwest and northeast sides respectively including the junction arms into Quartz and Sonora Way.

A copy of the proposed Order, statement of the Council's reasons for proposing to make the Order, a map indicating the location and the effect and a copy of any other Orders which will be amended by the proposed Order may be examined at the Council Offices of Swale Borough Council, Swale House, East Street, Sittingbourne, Kent and at Kent County Council, Sessions House, Maidstone during normal opening times.

If you wish to offer support for or object to the proposed Order you should send your grounds for

your observations in writing to the Transport and Development Manager Kent Highway Services, Ashford Highway Depot, Javelin Way, Henwood Industrial Estate, Ashford, TN24 8AD or by email to td.eastkent@kent.gov.uk by 12 noon on 5 July 2011.

HIGHWAYS - District of Thanet

HAWLEY STREET, MARGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of gas mains replacement works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Hawley Street, Margate, on or after 27 June 2011 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Love Lane and Lombard Street.

The alternative route is via Hawley Street, Cecil Square, Queen Street, Marine Gardens, Marine Drive, The Parade, Fort Hill, B2051 Fort Crescent, B2055 Zion Place, Northdown Road, Trinity Square and Trinity Hill.

MAYS ROAD, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984 AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to construct new waste-water inspection chambers, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mays Road, Ramsgate, on or after 13 June 2011 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed in the vicinity of the junction with Grange Road.

The alternative route is via Grange Road, Southwood Road and Lorne Road.

There will be a brief time when Lorne Road is closed at the junction with Mays Road, as advised locally and signed on site.

Managed access will be maintained but there are likely to be minor delays

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tonbridge & Malling

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (EXEDOWN ROAD, WROTHAM)

**(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

**AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC
(TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991**

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Exedown Road from outside The Reservoir travelling south for 70m on or after Monday 27th June 2011 for a period of up to 2 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Kensing Road, Bull Lane, A20 London Road, Terry's Lodge Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for flowmeter installation and cross connections between mains. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Anthony Kavanagh on 01634 276409.

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (HATHAM GREEN LANE, STANSTED)

**(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Hatham Green Lane on or after Monday 27th June 2011 for a period of up to 16 weeks or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Ash Lane, A20 London Road, Labour In Vain Road, Plaxdale Green Road.

South East Water apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for mains replacement works. Should you require any further information for these works, the contact is Chris Ayles on 01634 276311.

HIGHWAYS - Borough of Tunbridge Wells

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL (MARLE PLACE ROAD, HORTSMONDEN)

**(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC) TEMPORARY ORDER 2011
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984**

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because works are proposed to be carried out on or near a road the Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting the use by through traffic on Marle Place Road from Highlands Farm to B2162 Lamberhurst Road on or after Monday 27th June 2011 for a period of up to 5 days or until such works are completed.

The alternative route is via Ruck Lane and B2162 Lamberhurst Road.

UK Power Networks apologise for any inconvenience caused by these works, which are necessary for a supply upgrade. Should you require any further information for these works, please contact Scott Davis on 01732 783986.

WEST KENT

BOROUGH OF TUNBRIDGE WELLS, MAIDSTONE AND TONBRIDGE & MALLING

THE KENT COUNTY COUNCIL

(A228 MAIDSTONE ROAD, CAPEL/WHETSTED ROAD, CAPEL/WHETSTED ROAD, YALDING/BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM/BOYLE WAY, B2160 MAIDSTONE ROAD, YALDING, BELTRING ROAD, EAST PECKHAM, BRANBRIDGES ROAD, EAST PECKHAM) (40 MPH & 30MPH SPEED RESTRICTIONS)

(NO STOPPING OR WAITING RESTRICTIONS)

(PROHIBITION OF TRAFFIC)

TEMPORARY ORDER 2011

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984

AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

NOTICE is hereby given that because of the likelihood of danger to the public the Kent County Council intends to make an Order with the following restrictions.

Traffic travelling at any speed in access of 40mph is prohibited on the A228 Maidstone Road, Capel from the junction with B2017 Badsell Road to the junction of Whetsted Road (northern end, the start of the A228 Whetsted Road, Capel).

Traffic travelling at any speed in access of 30mph is prohibited on the A228 Whetsted Road, Capel between the A228 Maidstone Road, Capel to the roundabout outside the main entrance to The Hop Farm Country Park.

The effect of the Order will be to introduce prohibition of waiting or stopping on A228 Maidstone Road from B2017 Badsell Road/Whetsted Road/Branbridges Road/ Boyle Way to A228 Seven Mile Lane, B2160 Maidstone Road between Transfesa Road and A228 Whetsted Road roundabout and Beltring Road between A228 Branbridges Road to Torbay Road.

Prohibit waiting and stopping on Branbridges Road, outside of the Industrial Estate.

These restrictions are to be in place, when required as indicated by signage on site, between 0001hrs and 2359hrs on Thursday 30th June 2011 to Monday 4th July 2011 and Wednesday 20th July 2011 to Sunday 24th July 2011.

The Hop Farm Country Park apologise for any inconvenience caused by these restrictions which are necessary due to large scale events taking place.

**Katherine Kerswell
Group Managing Director
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent, ME14 4XQ**

Dated 10th June 2011

**For further information, please contact
Kent Highway Services,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways**

**Kent
County
Council**





A celebrity chef and his team head for the pub

SEE PAGE 53



VIEW THIS IGHTHAM

More time to enjoy country home as it extends opening

SEE PAGE 59

Kent Weekend

Into the light?

Discover whether Margate's tide really is starting to turn

SEE PAGE 71



PLUS: The future of health and social care could be combined under proposals to change the way the NHS is run - **talking point p50** Make this your manor beneath the downs - **Kent's finest property of the week p68** Saab swings back with its 9-3 - **driving p83**

Two Chimneys Holiday Park

*Luxury Development Of Lodges
and Golf Course*



Relax & Experience the Pleasure of our picturesque Five Star Park

Whether you are retired or just looking for a care free life, Two Chimneys is the ideal place for you. With new luxury lodges on site or caravans available to order, you'll find your perfect home and destination.
All new sales include first years site fees and much more.

Our Services

Buy your own holiday home: Prices vary new and second hand models available.

Holiday Hire: Hire our luxury holiday homes **from £119** for a short break and **£170** for 7 nights.

Caravan Storage: Secure hard standing storage spaces for caravans, trailer tents, motorhomes, trailers etc.. From **£270** for 6 months.

Camping and Touring: Hard standing service pitches, electric pitches and non electric pitches. Prices from **£15** per night (includes 2 adults and 2 children)

Facilities on-site

- Licensed family club house
- Snack Bar/Take away
- Heated swimming pool
- 3 play parks & football area
- Modern clean shower blocks
- Chemical waste disposal
- Amusement arcade
- Shop
- Hot Tub
- Tennis court
- Laundry
- Golf course opening 2012



Two Chimneys Holiday Park, Shottendane Road, Birchington, Kent CT7 0HD

T: 01843 843157 - 01843 841068 E: info@twochimneys.co.uk www.twochimneys.co.uk

Meet the real lord of the manor

Ed Hill talks to Nick Sandford, head of the trust set up to safeguard the future of 500-year-old Jacobean mansion Godinton House, with its medieval hall and 12 acres of gardens renowned for their delphiniums

GODINTON House near Ashford is a Jacobean manor house run by a trust for the enjoyment of local people.

Nick Sandford, the estate manager for 14 years, jumped at the chance of getting involved with preserving the building.

He said: "At the time I was working for the National Trust in Wiltshire. I was fortunate enough to be offered the position of the 'agent', which is the manager of Godinton and everything connected with it."

The house has a long and complex history of owners and adaptations down the years.

"It has a medieval core, with Jacobean additions [1620s]," said Nick. "Further building took place in the 18th, 19th and 20th centuries. The 20th-century work is just a porch, but all these additions have reflected the Jacobean style of the building."

The 12 acres of gardens have become a big draw for visitors since the trust took over running Godinton in 1996. Visitors get the chance to see the changes with the seasons and sign up for gardening and other craft courses held at the house.

Nick said: "In the park and gardens we have done a considerable amount of restoration and new planting. We hold events throughout the year, ranging from courses about gardening and craft skills including patchwork textile crafts to regular yoga classes."

"In the summer we hold open-air theatre performances and a sculpture exhibition."

Godinton is famed for its display of delphiniums, which are at their best during Delphinium Week in late June.



The summer season ends with a family Pumpkin Day, with ghost stories in the cellars, pumpkin-carving and other events.

Despite the historic nature of Godinton, Nick is not afraid to embrace new technology if it helps to maintain the house. In 2009 a woodchip boiler was installed to heat the buildings and make use of the estate's woodland resource.

He said: "The estate has a hundred acres of woodland, most of which is chestnut coppice and, as the market for wood products was dwindling, it was sensible to find a new use for it. This coincided with the growing interest in renewable energy and, because coppiced trees quickly regrow, it is a truly renewable supply. The CO₂ released by burning the wood is absorbed by the growing trees."

"The capital cost of installation was high,



PRESERVING HISTORY: Nick Sandford, left and below right with his faithful hound, has managed the glorious Godinton Hall estate for 14 years

even after a grant from the Rural Development Programme of Europe. However, the saving in fuel costs and the increasing price of oil made it worthwhile."

On such an old building, Nick depends on his staff to keep on top of the never-ending maintenance that is required.

"The repair, decoration and maintenance require specialist skills such as working with lime mortar and lead paint. We are fortunate in having an in-house building team who are extremely skilled and thorough with the patience to carry out a lot of fiddly work."

"The other great challenge is trying to maintain the feel and the atmosphere of a historic house. We do not have huge numbers of visitors. We like to take small groups round with a guide so they can really benefit from an in-depth appreciation of house and the estate," he said.

Funding is also a key issue for Godinton, but the trust has worked hard over the years to build sufficient reserves to maintain it hopefully for many years to come.

And working each day at such a site does have managerial benefits.

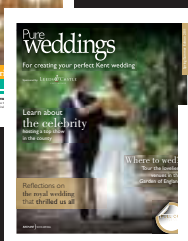


Nick said: "My favourite view at Godinton is from the west end of the walled garden looking back to the roofs and chimneys of the house with the parkland beyond."

■ **For more information about Godinton House and forthcoming events, visit www.godinton-house-gardens.co.uk**



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UNDER Government plans to reform the NHS, health and social care are set to be integrated with more power being given to family doctors and councils. The controversial Health and Social Care Bill has gone through a six-week 'listening exercise' before going back to Parliament for the details to be worked out.

Health Secretary Andrew Lansley's 'pause' has left local health and social care officials in limbo as they wait to see the extent of structural changes to the NHS.

But work has already begun in Kent to see how health and social care can be brought together in the future, when there will be a focus on early intervention to keep people away from A&E and older people out of hospitals to save money.

James Lampert, efficiency team manager at Kent County Council, has been leading an "exploratory programme" to integrate health and social care.

He said: "Where we are trying to get to is that if people are trying to negotiate the health and social care system that we have integrated the separate pockets for social care with the separate pockets of health services.

"Particularly for people with urgent needs, we know that the experience people have had in Kent is not always the best experience.

"We are looking at co-locating health and social care professionals in one place to that care pathways become more integrated. So that it becomes a seamless journey."

John Ashelford, a governor of the health watchdog Kent Local Involvement Network (LINK), said: "It is essential to combine in some way health and social care services to avoid gaps. We often come across situations where health is saying one thing and social services another.

"The two are not joined up and we need to have a way to combine these services.

"For example, older people need both health and social care, it needs to be done in such a way that they are not having to deal with two groups when they are feeling elderly, frail and confused. It will save money and help with discharging planning."

The changes are being brought in as a reaction to the fact that more people are living longer. Already 12 per cent of people over 65 have more than three long-term conditions and numbers are set to double in the next 20 years.

Mr Lampert has been looking at care for people with dementia. The number of people with the condition are set to increase to more than a million by 2021.

"This is a real challenge, not only for us in Kent," he said. "What we need to be able to do firstly is pick up people early. As people start to have difficulties with day-to-day life then get them an appointment with a GP and social care professional."

Mr Lampert and his team have been going out across Kent to talk to family doctors involved in the new GP consortia, who under the Government's plans will soon control the majority of the NHS budget.

"One of the common themes for them and what seems to have happened is that GPs feel that they are more isolated than they were in the past," he said.

In west Kent, KCC has already been working with local doctors and other community health teams to enable people to stay at home for longer to reduce costs.

A pilot scheme has been running to establish multi-disciplinary team meetings to talk about patients and services users with high-level needs such as dementia, which is aimed at stopping them going into hospital for care.

"It is professionals from social services, from the



The future of health and social care looks to be combined under current plans to change the way the NHS is run. But as Jenna Pudelek reports, this could be a change for the good as an 'exploratory programme' under way in Kent is proving

CARING AND SHARING: By combining the health and social care services it is hoped many hundreds of patients will be able to be treated at home before being referred to hospital, so saving the NHS millions of pounds

REFORMS CRITICAL TO NHS WELLBEING

6699

Everything is up in the air in terms of the reforms, timelines, and the NHS needs to get its house in order. People working in the NHS are trying to work out in which directions they are going in

JAMES LAMPERT, ON THE CURRENT STATE OF THE NHS

Kent Community Health Trust and GPs working more closely and talking about individuals at the higher end of risk of something going wrong. Having that dialogue between primary care nurses and social care staff," said Mr Lampert.

KCC is also working on better IT systems and ways of holding data on patients and services users, which can then be shared between health and social care teams.

With the two fields so closely linked it is a wonder that more shared working practices are not already in place.

Mr Lampert said: "It is something that should have happened a long time ago. Having the IT infrastructure helps make communication much easier."

Of course, all this is set against the backdrop of health and social care budget cuts.

"This is part of KCC's strategy to try and make health and social care better for people in Kent.

"How we can reduce costs and manage demand? There's the increasing ageing population in the context of budget cuts that KCC is having to make over the next few years, but there is a commitment from the Kent Community Health Trust to work with us to integrate health and social care provision to reduce duplication, de-

liver better value for money and give people a better experience."

As part of the NHS reforms, while GPs will be controlling the budget, councils will continue to scrutinise local health bodies such as hospital trusts and influence family doctors in the role as commissioners.

Asked if GPs were on board with working more closely with KCC, Mr Lampert added: "Broadly speaking every single GP says yes, integrated health and social care is the way to go and there is really good evidence that we should work with them.

"It may be because of the health changes and different GP localities with control over the budget that it might be different models of integration care depending on the different needs. What is right for Maidstone might not be right for Dartford. This is where we need to think about local health and wellbeing boards.

"This is just the beginning of a journey. "Everything is up in the air in terms of the reforms, timelines and the NHS needs to get its house in order.

"People working in the NHS are trying to work out which direction they are going in. It has been unsettled by the Coalition coming in."

HAVE YOUR SAY...

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REBEL YELL: The murder of Wat Tyler pictured in the 15th century Chronicles of Jean Froissart

The peasant who led the poll tax rebellion

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

SOME 630 years ago this month thousands of rebel peasants descended on Canterbury Cathedral demanding the Archbishop be deposed.

It followed the introduction of a crippling poll tax which had been brought in under Archbishop of Canterbury Simon Sudbury, who was also the Lord Chancellor.

The Great Rising – also known as the Peasants' Revolt – saw Maidstone man Wat Tyler lead thousands of peasants from across Kent and the South East to attack Rochester Cathedral and then later break into Canterbury Cathedral during the celebration of high mass to demand that monks depose the Archbishop.

But it ended with bloodshed and the murder of Tyler and Archbishop Sudbury.

Academic Richard West, founder of the Chaucer Education Project, said historical events such as the Peasants' Revolt should be included in a Canterbury timeline.

"Much of Canterbury's history has not been published and I want to create a timeline to bring relevance to local history and bring it alive," he said.

"There is so much history here, for example, Canterbury had the world's first regular passenger railway, this is something that some people don't know.

"I also think the old City and County Borough of Canterbury should be returned – there is so



BREAK IN: Peasants stormed into Canterbury Cathedral

much going on here, it should run separately from the county council."

Mr West founded the self-funded Chaucer Education Project in 1986 with a view to creating a virtual learning site, similar to Open University courses.

"It will be the technical equivalent to Open University, but students will be able to choose smaller, more specialist courses, which last a shorter period of time," he said.

"They will also be able to buy courses as they go along.

"The learning site is still being developed – it has been difficult with no funding available – but I hope to soon be able to establish the online Chaucer University."

The 1381 break-in at Canterbury Cathedral by Wat Tyler during the Peasants' Revolt was the first historical item to feature on the new pages of The Chaucer Education Project.

The famous rebellion be-

gan on May 30 and continued through June with attacks on Rochester and Canterbury, until the protesters reached London on June 14.

During a meeting between Richard II and Wat Tyler, which resulted in the King backing down on his tax plans, rebels tracked down Archbishop Sudbury and beheaded him.

Historical accounts report that the following day during another meeting, the King became angered by Tyler's arrogant behaviour and the Lord Mayor slashed at him with his sword, mortally wounding the rebel leader.

Mr West said the account gave a glimpse into what the history course unit, at GCSE level, would involve.

"This was a major event in history, particularly for Canterbury and Kent," said Mr West.

"For the last 40 years Wat Tyler's movement hasn't been published everywhere and some people don't know much about it even though it is an important part of Canterbury's history – every Christmas Day a wreath is laid on the tomb of Archbishop Sudbury."

Mr West said he aimed to create a timeline on his site to highlight local events in history as part of the planned online Chaucer University history course.

Wat Tyler Way in Maidstone is named after the rebel leader.

For information go to www.tcep.org.uk.

■ See yourcanterbury.co.uk for local news and sports.

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The chef putting the great into pub grub

RICHARD Phillips has created some of the best restaurants in Kent. His first venture, Thackeray's in Tunbridge Wells, won a Michelin star and his other restaurants have been praised equally.

For his latest project he has moved away from fine dining into the world of the local boozer.

He said: "I knew I could deliver with my experience. I just needed to bring that to a pub."

Phillips and his team took over the Pearson's Arms, Whitstable, in December 2010. Its location right on the seafront of the trendy town has to be one of the best in the county. However, the reputation of its food has over the years, like the nearby tides, ebbed and flowed.

Phillips said: "I used to bring my children to Whitstable for a day out and always knew it was a nice place. I wanted to re-create a traditional English pub but with a really good atmosphere and a bit of everything: great beers, great wines and a great dining experience."

The chef, who has appeared on TV shows like Ready Steady Cook, wanted the character to be informal but with no drop in quality and, despite its seaside locality, he was also keen not to limit the menu to seafood.

He said: "We are not a nation that just lives

Richard Phillips talks to **Ed Hill** about his latest challenge – taking charge of a seafront hostelry

TAKING OVER THE PUB:

The team, from left: head chef Cameron Maclean, manager Jamie Evans and Richard Phillips

on seafood. Because of our great meat and other produce, we can eat a whole range. In winter we like slow-cooked and warming foods. In the summer we want something different.

"I wanted to cook traditional dishes but executed superbly. We are just a few yards from the sea, but I am also just a few miles from some of the best apples and best game on the planet. I wanted to dovetail seafood with other food, and that comes back to the seasons. If you are a fish-eater, we will always have that, but I will also serve in-season pheasant and venison."

Phillips also knew that a pub's reputation was even more linked to its drink.

The Pearson's serves an extensive range of beers from local microbreweries; there is also a large selection of foreign and bottled beers and a comprehensive wine list.

He said: "Kent is the home of the hop and I wanted to reflect that. We also offer our Wine Flights, when customers can try three different glasses of wine for a set price.

"Ten years ago, it was hard to find local suppliers that could fulfil demand. People would come to me with a free-range chicken, but when I said I needed 100 a week they would balk at that. Local suppliers are realising they have to produce more if they are going to deal with the restaurant trade."

Diners can also expect a varying menu. The lunchtime fare changes every week and the à la carte dishes change around every three weeks.

"That is important to me," said Phillips. "I like my customers to come back and know they can experience something different. It is also good for my staff – it keeps them on their toes. The food has to be good because it has my name associated with it, but I don't want to scare people off. I want the pub to be welcoming to families."

So how has the first six months been?

Phillips said: "It has been great, but I feel I have only just scratched the surface – we have a long way to go. I never like to get complacent."

Farmers' markets

Dartford

DARTFORD farmers' market began in November 2005 at the request of Dartford Borough Council and has been running since then. It is held in the pedestrian area of Dartford high street and is open to the public between 10am and 2pm selling a variety of produce.

Headcorn

HEADCORN farmers' market has now entered its fourth year and opens every second Saturday from 9.30am to 12.30pm at the village hall. It aims to provide good-quality local produce and locally-made goods at excellent prices, with a wide range on offer.

Penshurst

THE Times recently named Penshurst farmers' market in its Top Ten markets in the UK. With more than 30 stalls offering the best local food and drink, it is set against the picturesque backdrop of Penshurst Place on the first Saturday of each month.

Hildenborough

EVERY Tuesday in St John's Church Centre, the extremely popular Hildenborough farmers' market has an average of 20 stalls each week offering a wide range of fresh local produce including meats, cheeses and fruit of high quality at competitive prices.

Whitfield

WHITFIELD farmers' market is held every Thursday from 9am to midday in the village hall. It is a very busy market, with 200-300 customers through the door each week, and offers fresh fish including scallops, crabs, lobsters and local fish in season.

Rolvenden

ROLVENDEN farmers' market was established in 2000 and has been in business ever since. It is run by volunteers and is non-profit-making and takes place every Thursday from 10am to midday in the new village hall and St Mary's Church opposite.

■ For more farmers' markets, visit www.farmersmarkets.org.uk

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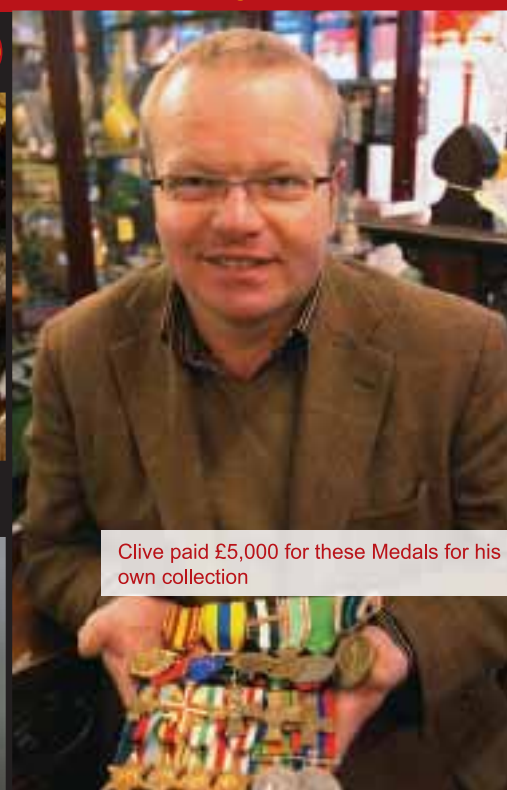
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Why here...

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On the menu...

There is a wide range of dishes such as Bangladeshi fish, which has proved to be very popular. Food can be prepared to suit customers' dietary needs and there is something for everyone.

How to book...

The Golden Curry, 63 Northdown Road, Cliftonville, Margate CT9 2RJ phone: 01843 295658

Cuisine from all quarters on your table

THERE is a vast array of restaurants with cuisine from all corners of the globe available across Kent. Whatever it is you are looking for, you can be sure to find great examples of the culinary delights of the world. Most popular continue to be Indian and Chinese, but other eateries abound, serving Thai, Vietnamese, Iranian and Moroccan food, among others.

Europe is not forgotten, either, with the foods of Italy, France, Greece and Spain always popular. So what better way to pass a great evening or lunchtime with friends than going out and soaking in the cultural ambience and the food and drink of a different nation and way of life?

Whether it be hot and spicy or lightly flavoured and delicate, the world's cooking is

there to be enjoyed and you no longer have to travel very far to do so.

Knowledgeable staff are always on hand to guide the inexperienced diner and offer advice as to the best combinations.

These restaurants always pride themselves on their authenticity, so they really are the next best thing to dining out during a foreign holiday. And with summer upon us, a staycation in the Garden of England can be just as exciting – culinarily speaking – as a wide-ranging trip across Europe, south-east Asia or the Indian sub-continent.

The varying tastes of the world of cooking are available right on your doorstep in restaurants staffed by expert chefs who know how to bring the exotic flavours of far-off lands to the tables of Kent's most discerning diners.



Don Giovanni Folkestone

Why here...

Don Giovanni is one of the leading Italian restaurants in east Kent and a great place for diners to try a little Mediterranean experience. Close to The Leas, it has a warm and cosy venue.

On the menu...

The restaurant has a distinctly Latin ambience, much appreciated by diners. It is open from noon to 2.30pm and 6.30pm to 10.30pm Monday to Saturday but closes at 10pm on Sundays.

How to book...

Don Giovanni, 18 Bouverie Road West, Folkestone CT20 2SZ phone: 01303 850962 www.dongiovannifolkestone.com



William & Brown Whitstable

Why here...

The best Tapas bar and restaurant this side of London, serving modern and traditional Spanish dishes, with something for everyone. Using the best suppliers and importers, menus follow the seasons and are updated weekly; they include a good vegetarian selection. It is situated on Whitstable's popular Harbour Street, only a stone's throw from the beach, with outdoor seating

and air-conditioning inside. Now in its eighth year.

On the menu...

Jamon Iberico, guindillas with anchovies, scallops with morcilla (black pudding), calamars, sardinas a la plancha, Catalan honeyed chicken, beef Madrid, albondigas (meatballs) and paella Valenciana. Weekly menu at www.thetapas.co.uk.

How to book...

William & Brown Tapas, 48 Harbour Street, Whitstable CT5 1AQ phone: 01227 273373 (answer-machine out of hours)

Le Petit Poisson Whitstable

Why here...

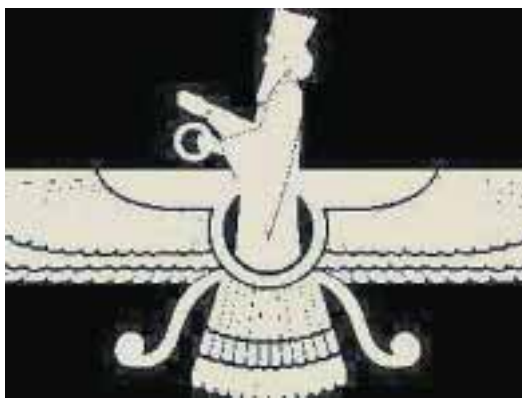
This diminutive fish restaurant on Herne Bay seafront (by the pier) is an unexpected delight. Recently refurbished but with alfresco dining in the summer, there are uninterrupted sea views.

On the menu...

A relatively small menu delivers excellent food. With a French influence, a range from oysters and moules marinières to the finer smoked haddock chowder with fennel emulsion, and baked fillet of cod. Excellent.

How to book...

Pier Approach, Herne Bay, CT6 5JN phone: 01227 361199 web: www.lepetitpoisson.co.uk



Patogh Ramsgate

Why here...

The only Persian restaurant in the South East serving authentic cuisine, cooked by Saeed, the Iranian chef. Open during the day as a coffee shop and serving a great lunchtime menu, Patogh also offers a good choice of English food.

Persian buffet night is on the last Friday of the month, with various dishes. Just a minute's walk from Ramsgate's royal harbour and

the multi-storey car park.

On the menu...

Mixed Persian starter, including aubergine topped with herbs, kofteh berenji (minced lamb mixed with lentils, rice and dill and shaped into balls served with a tomato sauce), mini mince kebabs and lamb shank served with dill and broad-bean saffron rice.

How to book...

Patogh Restaurant, 2 Effingham Street, Ramsgate CT11 9AT phone: 01843 852631 patoghrestaurant@aol.com



Dog and Duck Plucks Gutter

Why here...

By the River Stour, surrounded by countryside and with a large garden. Live music every Sunday from midday to 3pm. Large function room holds up to 70 people and a smaller room up to 40.

On the menu...

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The walk starts in the charming town of Faversham, which boasts Kent's oldest street market and the UK's oldest brewer, Shepherd Neame, where visitors can enjoy pre-booked brewery tours and tasting sessions.

Journeying down Abbey Street, famous for its fine collection of period homes and the remains of the town's Medieval royal abbey, you will follow the historic waterway out of the town and into open countryside.

Once renowned as the Larder of London, this area of Kent sent supplies of grain, fruit and hops to the capital by sailing barge. Now you will discover historic farmsteads and rural hamlets dotted between golden wheatfields, hop gardens and watercress beds.

Strawberry fields surround the area around Goodnestone, which also boasts a beautiful 12th-century church and is a major centre for the UK's soft-fruit production.

From here the trail snakes to the wide, open marshes at Graveney, home to diverse ranges of plants, insects and animals as well as award-winning saltmarsh lamb, and where you can learn about a historic secret of the marshes and its nearby pub where servicemen billeted there in the Second World War captured a German aircrew after a gun fight – and then invited them back for a drink.

Walking towards the village of Seasalter, with its sandy beach and the Michelin-starred gastro pub, The Sportsman, the trail now follows the coastal path back to Faversham.

Along the route, visitors will be able to see a second wind farm – set to become the world's largest offshore wind farm – being built in the Thames estuary. The trail then takes walkers past wetland reserves, home to lizards, buzzards and rare plants, and of significant national environmental importance.

For more information on the trail, download a leaflet at www.faversham.org/walking, or visit the Tourist Information Centre.

■ **Location:** Faversham, ME13 8PN

■ **Distance:** 11 miles (17.7km), allow four hours 30 minutes. There is a short-cut you can take that makes the walk five miles (8km)

■ **OS Explorer map:** 149

■ **Terrain:** Mainly flat with a mixture of surfaced paths and arable fields. Some on-road sections

■ **Step count:** Approx 22,000

■ **Parking:** Queen's Hall long-stay car park is near Faversham station

■ **Refreshments and facilities:** There are pubs, restaurants and a tea room en route



REFRESHMENTS: There are enough pubs and restaurants to cater for all tastes en route



Discover the picturesque and contrasting landscape in and around Faversham on a new Earth, Wind And Water walk, which gives visitors the chance to explore at a leisurely pace the marshes, historic town and extraordinary wildlife that so define the area.



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Open longer Country home meets demand

Ightham Mote, Sevenoaks
June to September, 11am-5pm
01732 810 378
www.nationaltrust.org.uk

THE Ightham Mote estate will now open its doors to visitors more regularly throughout the summer to cope with the demand to see its grounds. The 14th-century manor, described by historian David Starkey as "one of the most beautiful English country houses", will be open six days a weeks (not Tuesdays) for history fans to explore. Guided tours around the 700-year-old moated manor house allow nature-lovers to enjoy the scenery on the long walks. Previously owned by Medieval knights and courtiers to King Henry VIII, the house is steeped in history, featuring its own great hall and crypt. Adult tickets £11.50, children £5.75, family ticket £29. National Trust members have free entrance.



Conservation volunteers Ancient trees

Tonbridge area
Sunday, July 10
www.btcv.org/kent
01233 666519

THE British Trust for Conservation Volunteers (BTCV) is looking for volunteers in west Kent to join its ancient-trees project. The group has been awarded £652,400 to carry out a survey of Kent's Heritage trees. Heritage trees are defined by the Forestry Commission as trees with historical and cultural significance. BTCV is looking for 330 volunteers to train to become Heritage Tree Surveyors. No experience is necessary as free training and equipment will be provided. Volunteers can also take part in guided walks and talks, community awareness days and ecology courses. For details, phone Virginia Hodge on 01233 666519 or email v.hodge@btcv.org.uk.

Beating retreat Armed Forces Day tribute

Historic Dockyard Chatham
Saturday, June 25, 6pm
01634 823826
www.thedockyard.co.uk

THE Historic Dockyard Chatham is celebrating Armed Forces Day in Medway with a beating retreat and ceremonial sunset. This popular traditional event will feature the band of Her

Majesty's Royal Marines Portsmouth, together with the Duke Of York's Royal Military School Band and the City Of Rochester Pipe Band. Tickets are available at £12 for a front view, £10 for a side view and £8 for a rear view. This is a fund-raising event in aid of Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust and the Royal Naval Benevolent Trust. It will be preceded by an Armed Forces And Veterans' Parade through Rochester high street at 10.30am, followed by a drumhead service in Rochester Castle Gardens at 11am.

As part of the Armed Forces Day celebrations, Chatham Historic Dockyard Trust is offering free entry to the dockyard, including all the galleries and attractions, for veterans, current service personnel and people who worked at the dockyard prior to its closure in 1984. Complimentary tickets can be collected on arrival on presentation of ID or proof of service. Up to five accompanying guests will be able to buy guest day tickets for the event at the reduced price of £9.50.

Father's Day Light-railway treat for Dad

Tenterden & Bodiam Station
Sunday, June 19, 1.15pm
www.kesr.org.uk
01580 765 155

THIS Father's Day, why not treat Dad to a day at the Kent and East Sussex Railway? The treat includes a return journey on one of the railway's stunning vintage steam trains, and Dad can choose from a delicious homemade ploughman's lunch or cream tea, served to your reserved table and complemented by a bottle of the railway's own beer, Dad's Delight.

Also included in the ticket price is an amusing caricature of Dad, which will be drawn during the train ride, so he remembers the day. The Kent & East Sussex railway stretches more than 10 miles between Tenterden and Bodiam stations, and visitors of all ages will love the excitement of travelling on one of the country's finest rural light railways. Relax on board as you take in the beauty of the surrounding countryside, interrupted only by the gentle chug of the steam engine. There will be a choice of two trains from Tenterden station for the Father's Day treat, departing at 1.15pm and 3.30pm.



History shots Memories of high street

Medway Archives, Strood
Until Tuesday, July 12
01634 332714
www.medway.gov.uk

MEMORIES of Rochester high street are the inspiration for a free exhibition opening at the archives centre this month. It features photographs from 1910, 1967 and 2011. The exhibition will also include tales from residents of Watts Almshouses collected in 2006. One resident recalled going

to a Freemasons' dinner and dance at the Corn Exchange in the 1960s. She said: "It was really grand. It was the first time I ever wore a long skirt. The Corn Exchange was really impressive as you walked up those stairs." Another worked in Davies newsagents for 12 years. "It was the smallest shop in Rochester," she said. "The shop door used to open on to the counter, which meant anybody waiting there was knocked. We also unearthed a fireplace at the back and I suggested to my brother that he should close down for a week because I wanted to investigate further. He said newsagents can't afford to shut up shop."



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Dover Museum The 80s back into focus

Market Square, Dover

Until Saturday, October 8
01304 201066
www.dover.gov.uk/museum

DOVER Museum is remembering the 80s and looking at how the area has changed over the last 30 years in a new exhibition. Using contrasting photographs, Dover In Pictures includes a comparison of technology, fashion and everyday items, as well as archive and film material. The exhibition runs in connection with the BBC's Domesday Reloaded online project, which explores the results of the 1986 Domesday project, in which local people captured life in their area, using photographs and text. If you have items from the 80s that you would like to lend to the museum and have added to the displays, contact organiser Sam Harris on 01304 216883.



We are here to entertain you Spirit of the 40s

Tom Thumb Theatre, Cliftonville

Wednesday, June 15
01843 221791

THE tiny Tom Thumb Theatre hosts a celebration of the spirit of the 1940s when Gordon Clarkson and his company perform the latest edition of their show There'll Always Be An England. The show is a tribute to the performers of ENSA (Entertainments National Service Association), who lived and worked in conditions similar to the

troops, service personnel and munition-factory-workers they entertained. Packed with songs from the period and classic comedy, the show celebrates the spirit that brought Britain through some of its darkest days. It re-creates a typical ENSA concert and, from the moment the audience passes the unexploded bomb on the way in, steps back in time to 1941 in laughter and song. There is a talented but small company, as befits one of the smallest theatres in the world. The first show is on Wednesday, June 15, with a matinee at 2.30pm and an evening date at 7.30pm. It is then staged on the Wednesdays of July 27 and August 10. Tickets are £8; phone 01843 221791 or visit www.wegotickets.com/location/3610.

Living history Post Office in the Great War

Royal Engineers Museum, Gillingham

Until Thursday, September 1
01634 822839
www.remuseum.org.uk

THE Royal Engineers Museum is hosting the exhibition Last Post: Remembering The First World War. Curated by the British Postal Museum & Archive (BPMA)

and Churchill Museum & Cabinet War Rooms, it explores the role played by the Post Office during the First World War. More than 75,000 men left their jobs in the Post Office to fight, with 12,000 joining the Post Office's own battalion – The Post Office Rifles. As the men left to fight, tens of thousands of women joined the Post Office workforce temporarily. For the first time, women were allowed to perform duties from which they had previously been excluded. Postal telecommunications, including telephones and telegraphs,

were an important tool in connecting headquarters with the front line, as well as keeping soldiers and people at home in touch. Last Post demonstrates how letters were delivered to the front, how the Post Office dealt with huge increases in mail and the vital part that censorship played in the war effort. The museum will also display some rarely-seen postal items, including maps and the hard tack biscuit that was sent to the front through the post. An online version of the exhibition can be viewed at www.postalheritage.org.



New gallery Stour Valley Arts project

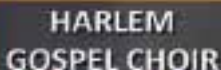
Elwick Road, Ashford

Sat, June 11, to Sat, July 16
01233 664 987
www.stourvalleyarts.org.uk

STOUR Valley Arts, which has been creating artworks in King's Forest, near Challock since 1994, has opened a gallery in Ashford. The first exhibition is by artist Jem Finer, known particularly for his work with sound, music and sculpture. His latest work, Stills, has been created to coincide with the opening of the new gallery. Finer hid a solar-powered camera in a tree in King's Wood for a year. The camera was an observer, recording all that passed before its lens. Finer then designed software to continually re-order the 18,000 captured photographs. The sequencing means that the flow of time is continually being stretched or compressed. The viewer is as likely to witness the passing of a single day as much as a year. Finer is giving a talk about his work at the gallery on Saturday, June 30, at 6pm. To reserve a place, email info@stourvalleyarts.org.uk. Stills will be open from Saturday, June 11, on Wednesdays to Saturdays from 10am-5pm.



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Shakespeare Much Ado About Nothing

Eridge Road, Groombridge
Thu-Sat, June 23-25, 7.45pm
01892 863 812
www.gromarts.org.uk

GROOMBRIDGE Open Air Theatre is to once again host a Shakespeare classic for its annual summer opening. Arguably the playwright's most comedic work, *Much Ado About Nothing* will be displayed by the Groombridge Dramatic Society. The group continue its 25-year tradition of holding plays at the nearby outdoor stage as well as upholding its promise to keep producing three plays a year, in spring, summer and autumn. The play features two couples, one who argue about the failures of love, and another who cannot speak highly enough of it and each other. The show will play again from Thursday, June 30, to Saturday, July 2.



Clairvoyance Tony wants to make contact

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Thursday, June 30
01474 337774

PSYCHIC medium Tony Stockwell is not a new kid on the block, and during his 20 years working as a medium he has constantly sought to improve his game and push the boundaries of his communication with those on the other side. In that time he has had many television programmes, taught at respected schools for mediumistic development and set up his own training school for developing mediums. Recent legislative guidelines insist that any evening of clairvoyance should be billed 'for entertainment purposes'. Stockwell uses his natural wit, showmanship and charisma to entertain. He says mediumship has the potential to change lives and instil in people a sense of peace and purpose. For those who do not receive a message, the use of a big screen allows the audience to become involved and takes them on a spiritual journey. Stockwell says he hopes his shows make others aware that there is something more than just our current lives.

Mr Benn live Extraordinary adventures

Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells
Friday to Sunday, June 17-19
01892 530613

AN envelope landed with a soft thud on the doormat. It was an invitation for Mr Benn to a fancy-dress party. Mr Benn is an ordinary man. He lives on an ordinary street

and makes the same ordinary journey every day to his ordinary office. Until one day, he receives an extraordinary invitation. Mr Benn's world is turned upside down when he stumbles across a small, dusty shop overflowing with costumes. As if by magic, the shopkeeper appears and shows him to a changing room. But this is no ordinary changing room; it contains a special door that leads to adventures. Will Mr Benn ever be ordinary again? The Mr Benn animation series of the 1970s is a fond memory for many of today's parents

who saw it in the days of the lunchtime TV children's slot. Now *Tall Stories*, the creators of *The Gruffalo* and *Room On The Broom* stage shows, are giving youngsters the chance to enjoy Mr Benn's adventures live. This is a new musical production to celebrate the 40th anniversary of David McKee's much-loved series. The *Extraordinary Adventures Of An Ordinary Man* runs for three days. Performances: Friday 1.30pm, Saturday and Sunday 10.30am and 1.30pm. Tickets £10; schools (Friday only) £8.50. Visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk.



On the art trail in Canterbury Transient art

Canterbury high street and BBC Live screens
Organised by Sondryfolk
www.sondryfolk.com

ARTISTS Mark John Smith and Amy Wickham have been brightening up the streets of Canterbury with their transient art. The work, placed on lamp-posts and hung around the streets, was designed to engage with the public without going to a gallery. The temporary nature of the work was intended to highlight environmental issues affecting the planet and create



connections with cultures around the world. Smith is searching for artists to feature in a digital project, *LIVELIVE*, that will be featured on BBC Live screens in preparation for the Olympics. To find out more, visit www.markjohnsmith.com.



Comedy night Stand up for Freddie Starr

Woodville Halls, Gravesend
Thursday, June 16, 7.30pm
01474 337 774
www.woodvillehalls.com

CULT comedian Freddie Starr is back on tour with another unpredictable evening of madness and mayhem, bringing his own brand of humour to the stage. Starr is no stranger to the Woodville Halls and is pleased to be back to deliver a show that promises to be 'very live and very dangerous'... but would you expect any less from the great man? Starr, a friend to many stars, will entertain the audience with some of his well-loved impressions of them as well as a number of new sketches. During his past 40 years of entertainment, Starr has established himself as one of the true comic geniuses of all time, with his place in the

comedy hall of fame surely assured. Millions of people across the country have seen Starr perform his regular summer sessions in clubs and cabaret, while many will remember his own national television show, *An Audience With Freddie Starr*. Don't expect your regular stand-up format as the comedian often breaks out into song. The Liverpudlian has released a number of albums and even had a Top 10 hit, *After The Laughter*. For those of you who may not know his history, Starr was also the subject of one of the most notorious headlines in journalistic history when *The Sun* newspaper ran the front-page saying 'Freddie Starr ate my hamster'. The showman is ready to tread the boards once more after reality stints in *Celebrity Wife Swap* and *Celebrity Fit Club* brought him back into the public eye. Tickets cost £19.50, but you must be 16 or older to see the show.

Winkleman referees in the battle of wit and celeb ego



King Of

Friday, June 17, 9.30pm, Channel 4

FANS of *Strictly Come Dancing* are still reeling from the revelation that Claudia Winkleman will not be hosting its spin-off show *It Takes Two* this year.

It's hard to imagine the programme without her surreal wit, flights of fancy and uncontrollable giggles, but at least she's back on the box this week with a new six-part comedy chat show in which she and her guests take a light-hearted look at some of the nation's favourite things.

In kind of a reversal to Paul Merton's BBC Two classic *Room 101*, *King Of* decides what the best things in life are.

Cropping up throughout the run will be an eclectic mix of subjects, including musicals, newsreaders, supermodels, pets, artists and take-aways. What Claudia and her guests then have to decide is which of them are the champions.

The first edition sees Sarah Millican and Chris Evans enter into a debate with the studio audience. We're expecting diva-style behaviour from the celebs if their choice isn't named king by the end of the night.

Winkleman said: "I have been playing *King Of* with friends and family forever. I am completely over the moon I'm now being allowed to do it on the telly. What's the king of condiments? No, it's not ketchup"

The six-part series was commissioned by Channel 4's commissioning editor for entertainment, Darren Smith, who said: "Seeing Claudia in a comedy entertainment context is a real treat.

"Everyone knows how charming and brainy she is, and now you can see how incredibly funny she can be. We're hugely excited."

With producers such as Ruth Wallace (*Mock The Week*), Chris Little (*League Of Their Own*) and Kate Staples (*Would I Lie To You*), *King Of* is surely going to put laughter back into Friday-night comedy. This is just another great example of the ideas team at Channel 4 working overtime to surpass other terrestrial competitors.



NOW THERE'S A THOUGHT: Claudia Winkleman says that she has been playing *King Of* forever

Luther dusts off the cuffs for a returns to the force

THE second series of the latest BBC crime drama involving the troubled and relentless London detective John Luther.

It's a year since the death of his estranged wife Zoe and his best friend Ian Reed's betrayal, but crime never stops and neither will Luther. While old acquaintance Alice (Ruth Wilson) passes time in a psychiatric unit and DS Justin Ripley (Warren Brown) languishes in uniform, Luther has been shut away with dusty files working on cold cases. Thankfully, his angst is tempered

Luther

Tuesdays, 9pm, BBC One

by his new friendship with Mark North (Paul McGann) and their chess games – a bond formed through Zoe, the person who once divided them. Former investigating officer Martin Schenk (Dermot Crowley) offers him a role in the new *Serious And Serial Unit*, and obviously Luther accepts. He is determined to devote his energy to reinstating Ripley as a rising star in

the police force and help those whom he hurt or compromised in the past, including Alice. The team is joined by ambitious DS Erin Gray (Nikki Amuka-Bird) and their first case together involves a man who hides behind a Punch mask as he brutally slays his victims. Look out for a guest appearance from *The Wire*'s Idris Elba. "Luther takes viewers to places where TV drama rarely goes," he said. "It's an emotional roller-coaster, full of unexpected twists and turns."



KEY MAN: Music helps the choir go round

This 8,000-person choir will be heard

The Choir That Rocks

Thursday, June 16, 9pm, ITV One

ITV'S new series is something far away from the norm of its usual style.

The *Choir That Rocks* is a documentary following five months on the road with the largest amateur singing choir in the UK. With more than 8,000 members having 150 rehearsals in 90 towns across the country, the rock choir is an entity that can be understood only with the watching of this show.

The programme focuses on founder Caroline Redman Lusher, who has booked Wembley Arena with plans to get the whole choir to sing together for the first time.

Lusher is the brains behind the whole idea and the first thing we learn is that she is a remarkable woman. She started performing professionally at the age of 15, is a gifted pianist and violinist, has appeared on the West End stage, and spent time as a teacher before launching her most successful venture.

"Rock Choir has organically grown from the love of pop music and the desire to make people happy," she said. "I'm on a journey and now there are thousands of people on that journey with me."

"It is unique and it's a culmination personally of everything I have ever done, learnt or experienced, coming together to provide something special for the UK."

This is one talented group of performers and the documentary allows viewers a unique insight into the often-strange world of the mega-choir.

The three-part mini series also follows choir-leaders Nic Slack and Stef Conner as they head across the nation publicising both the organisation and its upcoming Wembley date.

A documentary is not a documentary without some background research on its subject, so the series charts the choir's history to date. We also get a look into the lives and stories of some of the choir's participants. A must-watch.

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Offering an extensive range of timber buildings to suit all budgets and requirements, Johnsons is also able to offer a bespoke service, meaning you can even design your own building, made to measure.

All the log cabins are made from the highest-quality Siberian spruce timber with an interlocking system. This is far superior to the conventional panel options currently offered by other manufacturers.

With the steep rise in house prices over the last 10 years and the growth of people wanting to work from home, the low cost of installing a log cabin has obviously helped its popularity.

All cabins can be used as summer houses, home offices, guest houses, playrooms, gyms or even to house saunas and hot tubs. Whether it's an extra space to play or work, or just somewhere to chill out, if you're looking for something that looks fantastic and is competitively priced, then a log cabin could be the solution.

Johnsons has recently expanded, and now has four display sites across Kent:

■ Old Thanet Way, Chestfield, Whitstable.

Telephone: 01227 793717.

■ Notcutts Garden Centre, Newnham

Court, Bearsted Road, Maidstone.

Telephone: 01622 730777.

■ Polhill Garden Centre, London Road,

Badgers Mount, Sevenoaks.

Telephone: 01959 533466.

■ Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre,

Erige Road, Tunbridge Wells.

Telephone: 01892 546108.

The newest site is the Tunbridge Wells display village, which is based in Tunbridge Wells Garden Centre on the Erige Road (formerly Wyevale Garden Centre).

Johnsons probably has the largest display of outdoor living solutions in the South East, and with more than 100 different shapes and sizes to choose from, you won't be disappointed.

The sales offices are open from 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday and 10am-4pm on Sundays.

The sales team has many years of experience in the industry and will be more than happy to assist and answer any questions you may have regarding your building.

Johnsons Garden Buildings offers free site surveys and would recommend this service for its larger bespoke cabins.

Most wooden buildings can be installed without planning permission, but if you are concerned, speak to one of the members of the sales team.

When purchasing a building from Johnsons, there will be several upgrade options available to you such as double-glazing, roof and floor insulation, electrics and different colours and styles of roofing and flooring, all of which can be



■ Above, the display site at Tunbridge Wells enables you to see a wide range of options available to ensure you choose the perfect log cabin for your needs

seen when visiting one of the display sites.

Johnsons specialises in completing the whole project from start to finish, from initial design to the finished article, including delivery of the building, basework, erection and more.

Once the cabin has been erected, your building will come with a 12-month structural warranty for that extra peace of mind.

So, if you're running out of space but are not keen on the upheaval of moving, then Johnsons has the solution for you.

Log cabins come at a fraction of the price of conservatories and extensions and add value to your property. They will transform your garden into a liveable space that you'll be able to enjoy to the full.

With prices starting at just £1,349 from a company that prides itself on quality, service and customer satisfaction, Johnsons Garden Buildings is definitely worth a visit.

■ From small storage areas to large cabins suitable for use as summer houses, home offices, guest houses, playrooms, gyms or even to house a hot tub, Johnsons Garden Buildings has a wide selection of reasonably-priced log cabins from which you can choose





Hop over to the manor



Frogholt Manor near Folkestone

£1,500,000

■ ENTRANCE HALL ■ THREE RECEPTION ROOMS ■ KITCHEN/BREAKFAST ROOM ■ UTILITY ROOM ■ CLOAKROOM ■ TWO EN-SUITE BEDROOMS ■ THREE FURTHER BEDROOMS ■ TWO FAMILY BATHROOMS ■ ANNEXE: ENTRANCE HALL ■ LIVING ROOM ■ KITCHEN ■ TWO BEDROOMS ■ BATHROOM ■ MATURE GROUNDS EXTENDING TO ALMOST FOUR ACRES

FROGHOLT Manor is an outstanding country home nestling in a wooded valley beneath the North Downs in the picturesque hamlet of the same name, between Hythe and Folkestone.

It is ideal for anyone seeking the best of both worlds – privacy and seclusion, as well as good rail/road connections to London and the Continent.

It is situated only five minutes' drive from the M20 and Channel Tunnel terminal and within easy reach of the High Speed Rail Link, which you can join at Folkestone and Ashford (four and 12 miles respectively).

The cathedral city of Canterbury, with



excellent state and private education facilities, thriving university and good shopping, is some 15 miles away.

The charming, unspoilt Cinque Ports town of Hythe, with seafront, picturesque Royal Military Canal, four supermarkets, restaurants and leisure pursuits such as golf and sailing, is a very short drive away.

With parts dating back to the 17th century and later additions, this Grade II-listed property has been sympathetically restored to an exacting standard by the present owner, incorporating a wealth of oak beams. No expense has been spared and true craftsmanship is evident throughout the house.

Automatic gates lead to an extensive brick-paved forecourt area, where there is a double garage with storage above. The main house has a dramatic oak-panelled and beamed vaulted hall and staircase, leading to a galleried landing with oak floor.

The drawing room is double-aspect with French doors to the garden, an inglenook fireplace and flagstone floor and the luxury family kitchen/breakfast room also has an inglenook, cream Shaker-style units, granite tops, island unit and Rangemaster appliances in black.

Bedrooms total five in all, two of which are

en-suite with stylish contemporary bathrooms (free-standing baths and oak fittings), while there are two family bathrooms.

Floors are natural stone on the ground floor and polished oak floors in the bedrooms, with tiled floors in the bathrooms.

The annexe is self-contained with stone floors, a vaulted living room with a brick open fireplace and wood-burning stove, oak kitchen, two bedrooms and a well-fitted bathroom.

Central heating is oil-fired and there are substantial column radiators throughout.

The magical grounds surrounding the house amount to almost four acres, with a host of beautiful, mature trees defining the boundaries and creating sheltered nooks and crannies.

Winding paths take you alongside the Seabrook stream, split-level lakes, ragstone bridge and weir and lawns and a paddock.

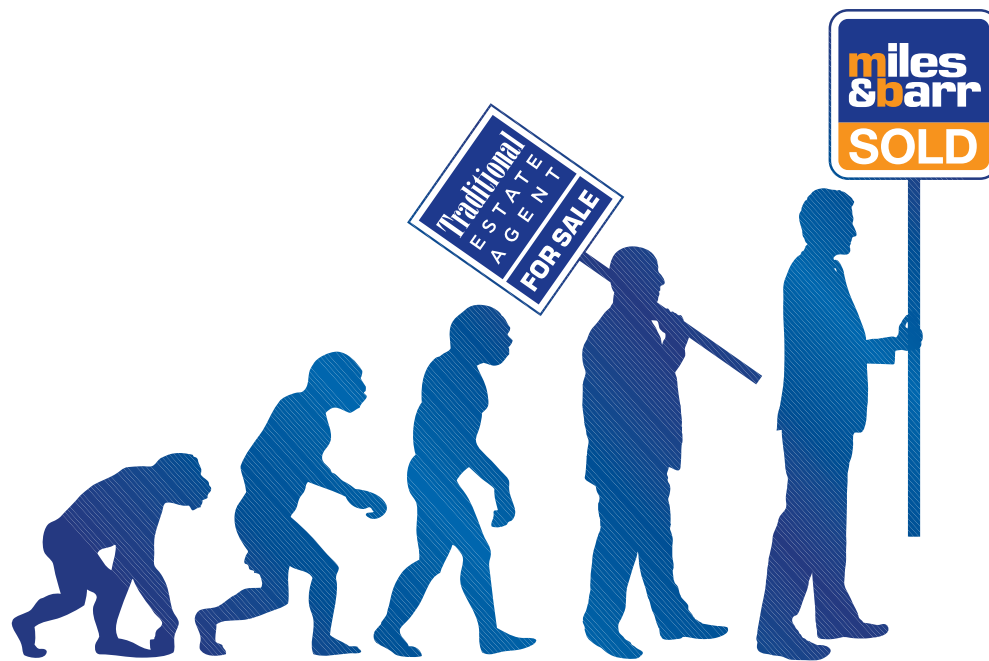
There is planning permission for a stable block and tack room for those with equestrian interests, and there are many walks and rides accessible nearby at the foot of the North Downs.

The approximate total habitable floor area is 6,000 sq ft (561 sq m).

For further details, or to arrange a viewing of this stunning country home, phone Lawrence & Co on 01 303 266022.







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SCENIC: Margate harbour at dusk, above, and the new seaside Turner Contemporary gallery, below

Faded resort waits on Turner effect

WHILE property prices in Margate are fairly flat, there is genuine hope that values in the seaside town will rise steadily over the next three to five years.

This positive mid-term forecast is spurred by the opening of the Turner Contemporary gallery, the renaissance of the 'Old Town' and the high-speed rail link to the capital, all of which, it is hoped, will increase demand for homes in the area.

But while the future might look a little rosier than it has for years, Stuart Barr, of Miles & Barr, warned that there was unlikely to be any change in the market in the coming two years.

"Prices appear to be fairly stable," he said. "We're selling 50 per cent of what we are listing at the moment.

"Since the crash in 2008, when prices fell by an average of 20 per cent, we have seen the market claw back approximately 10 per cent.

"Buyers currently have a lot of choice, so the average sale time is now 72 days, compared

with 42 days this time last year. We don't anticipate too much change in the short term as lenders are still cautious regarding higher loan-to-value lending. But some reports suggest prices will start to increase by 2014."

Mr Barr said there was strong demand for two- and three-bed terraces in the rental market up to £550 per calendar month but sale of property over £250,000 was slow-going.

With regard to current public perception of the Margate property market and house values, Mr Barr said it was new territory for him.

"In my 20 years as an agent predominantly in Thanet I have never known there to be such mixed opinion about prices.

"However good, bad or indifferent a market-place is perceived to be, a good agent will be able to demonstrate what prices are being achieved for property in any given location."

The average price for property in Margate is about £144,000, below that of neighbouring Thanet towns Ramsgate (£148,000) and Broadstairs (£206,000).



PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT ON MARGATE

What makes it special

ONCE one of England's most lively tourist resorts, there is no getting away from the fact that Margate has suffered decades of decline and it has many social and economic issues to this day. The town's unemployment rate is significantly higher than the UK average, a lasting reminder of the dark 'dole-on-sea' days of the 1980s, when out-of-work people from across the country were encouraged to set up home in Margate's former bed-and-breakfast hotels. The high street has been identified as the worst in the country and the number of asylum-seekers in the area keeps immigration a hot issue. However, Margate's coastal location and superb beaches remain its greatest hope. There is a widespread view that a quicker high-speed rail service to the capital is all that is needed to kick-start the town, bringing in the investment needed to return Margate to its former glories.

Room to improve

WHILE the area has been boosted by the opening of the Turner Contemporary art gallery, much more is needed to encourage investment and create jobs in a bid to get the town back on its feet. It is hoped the seafront gallery will act as a catalyst for genuine regeneration.

Prices

THE average price for under-offer stock in Margate is £144,378, slightly behind Ramsgate, which stands at £147,879, and Broadstairs, where the average tops £206,000.

Shops

THE high street has taken knock after knock, with big-name stores pulling out of the area one by one. The vacancy rate of Margate's shops



stands at a staggering 37.4 per cent, making it the most desolate high street in the country. Yet again, it is hoped that Turner Contemporary will come to the rescue in helping revive the retail sector. The early success of The Hoy pub opposite the gallery should encourage entrepreneurs to follow the example of the local company that revived the venue after 14 years of it lying derelict. Indeed, a number of restaurants and cafes have sprouted in anticipation of the much-lauded Turner effect.

Schools

MARGATE'S sole secondary school is Hartsdown Technology College, which has consistently delivered exam results above Government targets. Margate teenagers also venture out of town for their education, taking up places at Thanet's grammar schools, Dane Court in Broadstairs and Chatham House and Clarendon House Grammar Schools in Ramsgate; another option is Westgate's Ursuline College. There is a selection of primary schools in Margate, including Drapers Mill, Salmestone, Holy Trinity and St John's C of E and Garlinge.

Connections

HEAD west on the A299 to the seaside towns of Herne Bay and Whitstable and on to the Medway towns and London via the M2. Alternatively, point your car south-west along the A28 to Canterbury and the heart of Kent. The A256, situated due south, leads to Sandwich and Dover. London can be reached by train from Margate, but the vast number of stops on the journey frustrates commuters.

What's on

IT'S becoming something of a running theme, but this section would not be complete without noting the Turner Contemporary. Aside from the art, Margate boasts two notable theatres: the Theatre Royal, the second oldest theatre in the country, and the Tom Thumb, which is the second smallest in the country. For stage productions and gigs, the Winter Gardens is always worth a look – it has hosted some top names in recent years. An annual jazz festival, held every July, is popular, but for a quiet piece of heaven head to the Shell Grotto, an underground labyrinth discovered in 1835 which is covered in more than four million shells. Its age remains unknown.

Around and about

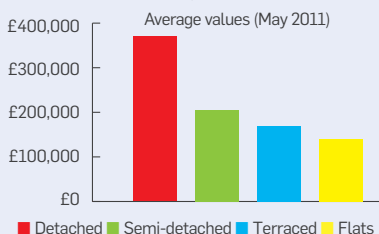
MARGATE'S fellow coastal destinations are all worth a look and have their own charms. Herne Bay is popular with watersports fans and the perfect place for a stroll on the seafront. Broadstairs, meanwhile, has a laid-back feel and a top-class mini golf course, although more serious golfers will probably head for North Foreland. Flying fans should take in the Spitfire Museum near Manston, which has priceless items linked to the famous wartime aircraft.

NEXT WEEK: PROPERTY SPOTLIGHT FOCUSES ON FOLKESTONE

HOME VALUES IN KENT

WHAT IS THE ZED-INDEX?

The Zed-Index! is the average home value in a given area based on Zoopla Estimates
Kent Zed-Index! £214,360



Area	Turnover	Zed-index!	Faversham	16.4%	£204,352	Sandwich	16.0%	£228,763
Ashford	16.2%	£212,592	Folkestone	16.6%	£170,161	Sevenoaks	16.2%	£446,408
Aylesford	15.8%	£212,517	Gillingham	16.2%	£161,315	Sheerness	14.8%	£145,668
Belvedere	17.4%	£163,077	Gravesend	14.2%	£191,166	Sidcup	17.5%	£240,678
Bexley	15.6%	£286,774	Greenhithe	18.9%	£188,408	Sittingbourne	16.1%	£183,469
Bexleyheath	16.7%	£234,315	Herne Bay	19.0%	£181,481	Snodland	16.0%	£157,353
Birchington	20.2%	£188,766	Hythe	17.9%	£234,244	Swanley	13.1%	£212,508
Broadstairs	18.8%	£206,515	Longfield	15.2%	£272,000	Swanscombe	13.3%	£151,504
Canterbury	15.2%	£224,912	Maidstone	15.8%	£219,905	Tenterden	16.7%	£294,941
Chatham	17.5%	£159,945	Margate	16.8%	£144,378	Tonbridge	14.6%	£308,843
Cranbrook	13.3%	£368,376	New Romney	20.1%	£197,054	Tunbridge Wells	18.1%	£302,864
Dartford	15.9%	£201,329	Queenborough	12.3%	£109,983	Welling	16.7%	£220,626
Deal	17.4%	£184,048	Rainham	13.6%	£180,391	West Malling	18.0%	£331,498
Dover	14.4%	£153,251	Ramsgate	16.2%	£147,879	Westerham	17.9%	£305,915
Edenbridge	13.4%	£341,337	Rochester	15.9%	£176,168	Westgate-On-Sea	18.7%	£153,177
Erith	12.7%	£168,565	Romney Marsh	17.0%	£175,486	Whitstable	19.7%	£230,142

Source: homes24.co.uk/kent

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£499,995

Royal Esplanade

LOCATED on the sought-after Royal Esplanade in Westgate overlooking St Mildred's Bay, and boasting a south-facing garden, this home is a must-see for any serious buyer. This property is presented to a very high standard throughout. The accommodation consists of an open-plan L-shaped lounge dining room, a downstairs toilet, conservatory, fully-fitted kitchen, boiler room, four double bedrooms, with the master suite boasting a Juliette balcony, an en-suite shower room and dressing room, and a family bathroom with access from one of the bedrooms. Furthermore, this luxury home boasts a separate office, block-paved off-street parking, mature gardens to the front and rear and stunning sea views. The house is in a convenient location, with the train station and a supermarket both only half a mile away.

AGENT: Miles & Barr
01843 570500



Tardis feel of large family five-bed home

£279,995

Cliff Avenue

THIS five-bedroom home is something of a Tardis, consisting of 10 spacious rooms across three floors. The groundfloor accommodation includes a dining room, lounge and kitchen, while the first-floor plays host to four bedrooms and a family bathroom. The second floor comprises the master bedroom, overlooking the large rear garden, and an en-suite.

AGENT: Oakwood Homes
01843 222707

St Mildred's Bay sea views from luxury Westgate home



Split-level garden adds value to superb home

£347,500

Dent-de-Lion Court

A LARGE family is needed to fill this beautiful four-bedroom property in a quiet area of Westgate-on-Sea. The ground floor consists of a bright reception and hallway,

sitting room, twin-aspect kitchen/diner, dining area and cloakroom. The first floor boasts a master bedroom with en-suite, two further double rooms and a fourth smaller bedroom. There is also a family bathroom. While the interior is plush and finished to a high standard throughout, some of the property's major

selling points are outside. The rear garden is beautifully maintained on a split level with tree-lined borders. A converted stable block and separate shed can be found towards the bottom of the garden and there is also a large garage.

AGENT: Oakwood Homes
01843 222707



Oak flooring in newly-built two-bed flat

£149,995

Morningside

THIS bright and airy home boasts underfloor heating throughout, oak flooring, high-quality fixtures and fittings, a video-phone entry system and allocated off-street parking.

The accommodation is designed sympathetically, with the lounge diner giving direct access to a sunny south-facing garden. It comprises two double bedrooms, the master boasting an en-suite shower room, family bathroom, modern fitted kitchen and enclosed gardens to the front and rear.

AGENT: Miles & Barr
01843 570500



Detached home in cul-de-sac

£250,000

St Mary's Avenue

THE quiet life can be enjoyed at this charming three-bedroom detached family home in a peaceful cul-de-sac, which boasts views over St Trinity Church to the front. The accommodation comprises a 13ft dining room, spacious 21ft lounge

overlooking the rear garden, fitted kitchen which opens out to a light and bright conservatory and a cloakroom on the ground floor.

The first floor includes a newly-fitted bathroom and three attractive bedrooms. The immaculate gardens surrounding the property are beautifully landscaped and offer a wealth of greenery.

AGENT: Cooke & Co
01843 231833

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Rural views of Minster

£900 pcm

Watchester Lane

THE beautiful countryside views available from this stunning four-bedroom Minster house make this already-desirable family home even more appealing. The accommodation comprises a generous entrance hall,

downstairs toilet, large lounge/diner, spacious modern kitchen, good-sized decking, a lawn garden, garage and tarmacked front driveway. The unfurnished detached property, which is available now, is conveniently placed in close proximity to shops, train station and other amenities.

AGENT: Prospects UK
01843 606058



Large detached four-bedroom home

£900 pcm

Oakwood

MAKING an ideal family home, this four-bedroom detached

house has solid-wood flooring throughout the ground floor. The ground floor consists of two reception rooms, a conservatory, fitted kitchen and cloakroom. Upstairs, there are four bedrooms, the master

having fitted wardrobes and en-suite facilities. There is a large rear garden and off-road parking to the front.

AGENT: Lovetts
01843 848382



Refurbished flat in prime seaside spot

£500 pcm

Fort Crescent

THIS recently-refurbished two-bedroom basement apartment is set in the sought-after seaside location of Fort Crescent. With easy access to schools, Margate town and good transport links, this property is ideal for a small family or working professionals. It has been redecorated, with new carpets throughout and a modern kitchen among its newest and best features. Further benefits include gas central heating and rear courtyard.

AGENT: The Property Tree
01843 230 786



Split-level maisonette near station

£525 pcm

Garfield Road

COMMUTERS will love this unfurnished two-bedroom

split-level maisonette as it is situated within a few minutes' walk of the town's train station. The accommodation consists of two good-sized bedrooms, a lounge, separate fitted

kitchen and large bathroom. The property is conveniently located within easy walking distance of shops, the sea and a supermarket.

AGENT: Miles & Barr
01843 572000



Spacious flat with sea view

£495 pcm

Ethelbert Crescent

THIS superb two-bedroom groundfloor flat comprises two large double bedrooms, spacious lounge with sea views, modern kitchen with oven, hob and extractor and modern bathroom with corner bath and separate shower. The property is unfurnished with gas central heating and double-glazing throughout. The flat has recently been redecorated and newly carpeted throughout. The landlord has agreed to pay the £100 referencing fee on this property, subject to terms.

AGENT: Cooke & Co
01843 600911



Sundrenched gardens

£950 pcm

Northdown Road

A LARGE private sundrenched rear garden is among the key features of this charming three-bedroom bungalow in sought-after Palm Bay. The

unfurnished property has just undergone redecorating and had a new kitchen and bathroom installed and new carpets laid. The accommodation includes a reception, bathroom and garage.

AGENT: Prospects UK
01843 606058

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TRINITY PLACE, RAMSGATE



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£695PCM

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4 bed house **LET**
£895PCM

NORTHUMBERLAND AVE, PALM BAY



3 bed Chalet style bungalow **LET**
£895PCM

DEVONSHIRE GARDENS, MARGATE



5 bed house, Swimming pool **LET**
£1,200PCM

BOTANY ROAD, KINGSGATE



3 bed semi-detached House **LET**
£850PCM

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3 bed house **LET**
£675PCM

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Lovetts Cliftonville £275,000



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Lovetts Palm Bay £139,000



- 2 Bedrooms
- Popular Location
- Garage in Back

Lovetts Palm Bay £122,500



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SALTWOOD



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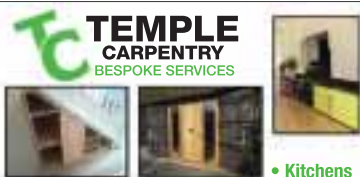
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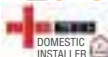
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First **GEAR** MOTORING NEWS

■ BMW 1-Series diesel to give Toyota Prius a run for its money
■ Kent-based Mazda means business with new 2.2-litre '6'



Hyundai to unleash i40 tourer on the Mondeo market

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Rough with the smooth

Cash-strapped Swedish giant Saab re-Bjorn with its latest 9-3

SEE PAGE 55 FOR ROAD TEST



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Saab and 9-3 re-Bjorn

By Sam Davison

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

IT has been a bumpy ride for Saab of late.

The Swedish motor icon needed another cash injection a few weeks ago from a Chinese manufacturer to ensure its future, just two years on from erstwhile parent General Motors (GM) preparing to pull the plug on the brand.

At that point, one of Sweden's most famous exports along with Abba, was 're-Bjorn' as partner to another re-born company, Spyker of Holland.

It was a curious marriage, though; Saab is more lower-volume executive brand than mass producer, while its new partner makes ultra-low-volume hand-crafted supercars.

Perhaps not surprisingly then in these cash-strapped times, the new independent group needed yet more cash backing; enter the Chinese and new possibilities for premium sales in their home market, one of the fastest-growing and strongest in the world at the moment.

And there is huge goodwill elsewhere and notably in the UK for one of the most technologically-revered brands in the industry.

The now separately owned Saab aerospace company began car production in 1949, majoring on aerodynamic styling and innovative engineering.

It promoted front-wheel drive and championed turbocharging, realising that boosting its four-cylinder engines was a cheaper route to higher outputs than developing a new six-cylinder unit to take on German rivals.

Turbocharging helped it to develop its most successful model ever, the 1980s-vintage 900, yet the company's finances were faltering and GM took a hold on the company in 1989.

Fiercely loyal 'Saabites' then became increasingly angry at what they saw as GM cloning within a once distinctive Saab line-up; in searching for economies of scale needed to

SAAB 9-3 AERO 2.0T AUTO : PRICE £28,795

FACT FILE



Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★
Value:	★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★
Road tax:	£425/year
Kent dealers:	
Canterbury Saab	
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MUSCULAR:

The Saab 9-3 has undergone yet another facelift, with tweaks to the front and a much-needed upgrade on the interior

make Saab profitable, GM watered down the innovation and bravery that had created such a loyal following.

And much GM technology still underpins Saabs even after gaining independence – the all-new 9-5 cannot escape the feel that it is modelled on the Vauxhall Insignia.

And yet the brand's workhorse model and long-running 9-3, launched at the height of GM control, shows how the Swedes dared to be as different as possible under GM.

Newly facelifted – again – the fluidity of the original design still has freshness and the tweaks to the front give the car its most muscular stance yet, while interior has a much-needed upgrade without disturbing the famed aircraft style dashboard and the state-of-the-art seats.

In recent years, and like many rivals, Saab has concentrated on turbocharged diesels for better economy and emissions, but its old expertise in petrol turbocharging is still much in evidence on cars such as the 2.0T Aero we have just tested.

Allied to a responsive front-wheel drive chassis, the 9-3 remains a driver's car and while it is actually now quite old when measured against rivals, it can still be rewarding to drive as well as attractive to look at.

Don't just check out the saloon, as tested here though, because the 9-3 range also includes the Sportwagon – a classy looking estate to rival the ubiquitous BMW 3-Series and the Audi A4 Avant – and the Convertible.

The current car is currently celebrating 25 years since the original 900 Convertible was released and put the wind up German premium brands in that rather exclusive sector.

We've said before that the 'croptop' is the ace up Saab's sleeve, being good for brand image.

There is also another potential trump card. Saab now has an excellent all-drive system known as XWD to rival Audi's Quattro sub-branding and it works superbly on the 9-3 – we can vouch for that after testing it on an ice track.

The Saab saga continues.

First **GEAR**

MOTORING NEWS



Hy on time for the latest i40

AMBITIOUS Korean marque Hyundai says the first version of its stylish new Mondeo class offering, the i40, will hit UK roads by September.

The Tourer or estate – to be followed quickly by a saloon – will start at £18,395 and feature the usual generous spec and five-year warranty plus some of the lowest taxes and running costs in its class.



1-Series gets a diesel boost

IT still isn't pretty, but BMW's all-new second generation 1-Series is proof that there's still life in the internal combustion engine.

The headline diesel, the 116d, delivers road tax-vehcing low emissions and averages more than 70mpg. Driving satisfaction is also guaranteed, with BMW reaffirming its belief in rear-wheel drive.



New Mazda6 the business

KENT-based Mazda UK has underlined its strength in the corporate market by launching a new Business Line version of its Mondeo class Mazda6.

The Japanese marque's Dartford HQ prices the new version at £18,300, with a thrifty 2.2-litre diesel engine placing it in the 20 per cent benefit-in-kind tax bracket for 2011-12.

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Final Payment	£370.33
Duration of Agreement	60 Months
Fixed Rate	10.86%
Representative APR	12.6%

Cash Price	£8,999
Deposit	Nil
Amount of Credit	£8,999
Purchase Fee (inc in payments below)	£10
Credit Facility Fee (inc in payments below)	£310
Total Amount Payable	£11,955
Initial Payment	£196.75
58 Monthly Payments	£196.75
Final Payment	£346.75
Duration of Agreement	60 Months
Fixed Rate	10.44%
Representative APR	12.3%

Cash Price	£9,495
Deposit	Nil
Amount of Credit	£9,495
Purchase Fee (inc in payments below)	£10
Credit Facility Fee (inc in payments below)	£310
Total Amount Payable	£12,593.40
Initial Payment	£207.39
58 Monthly Payments	£207.39
Final Payment	£357.39
Duration of Agreement	60 Months
Fixed Rate	10.43%
Representative APR	12.2%

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Deposit	£3,499
Amount of Credit	£6,500
Documentation Fee	£175
Option Fee	£149
Total Amount Payable	£11,581.04
Initial Payment	£293.23
34 Monthly Payments	£118.23
Optional Final Payment	£3,769
Duration of Agreement	36 Months
Representative APR	10.6%

Cash Price	£8,999
Deposit	£3,149
Amount of Credit	£5,850
Documentation Fee	£175
Option Fee	£149
Total Amount Payable	£10,394.19
Initial Payment	£298.46
34 Monthly Payments	£123.46
Optional Final Payment	£2,749
Duration of Agreement	36 Months
Representative APR	11.4%

Cash Price	£9,495
Deposit	£3,323
Amount of Credit	£6,172
Documentation Fee	£175
Option Fee	£149
Total Amount Payable	£10,965.11
Initial Payment	£200.09
34 Monthly Payments	£125.09
Optional Final Payment	£3,089
Duration of Agreement	36 Months
Representative APR	11.2%

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Purchase Fee (inc in payments below)	£95
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Total Amount Payable	£11,264.42
Initial Payment	£1,170.42
Monthly Payments	None - GMFV Due in 25 Months
Optional Final Payment (GMFV)	£5,333.75
Duration of Agreement	25 Months
Fixed Rate	9.8%
Representative APR	13.6%

Cash Price	£8,999
Deposit	£5,216.50
Amount of Credit	£3,782.50
Finance Facility Fee (inc in payments below)	£125
Purchase Fee (inc in payments below)	£95
Total Amount to Pay to Drive Away	£6,082.87
Total Amount Payable	£9,960.37
Initial Payment	£866.37
Monthly Payments	None - GMFV Due in 25 Months
Optional Final Payment (GMFV)	£3,782.50
Duration of Agreement	25 Months
Fixed Rate	9.8%
Representative APR	14.7%

Cash Price	£9,495
Deposit	£5,270.50
Amount of Credit	£4,224.50
Finance Facility Fee (inc in payments below)	£125
Purchase Fee (inc in payments below)	£95
Total Amount to Pay to Drive Away	£6,223.50
Total Amount Payable	£10,543
Initial Payment	£953
Monthly Payments	None - GMFV Due in 25 Months
Optional Final Payment (GMFV)	£4,224.50
Duration of Agreement	25 Months
Fixed Rate	9.8%
Representative APR	14.3%

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Nissan's latest 'Z' packs a potent punch

1ST DRIVE

BY SAM DAVISON editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

UNUSUALLY sunny it may have been for some weeks, but I knew I would mess it up for all by road testing perhaps the ultimate opentop sports car – Nissan's 370Z Roadster.

Right on cue, the Law of Sod was enforced and the heavens opened as I opted to wax lyrical about popping the 370Z's roof for true wind in the hair thrills behind a brutish engine in an equally muscular looking roadster.

The 370Z has heritage stretching back to the original 'Z' sports coupé, launched here in the 70s, with the 370Z taking over the baton in 2009 and ticking boxes left open by

its predecessor, the 350Z.

Nobody doubted that car's value for money, but its equally tempting replacement (from £31,250) manages to be sleeker and more stylish yet slightly shorter, while an intrusive bracing bar behind the 350Z's front seats has been lowered and camouflaged without affecting the stiffness of a car that is also 32 kilos lighter.

But don't think the 'Z' has gone soft. The 324bhp 3.7-litre V6 – up from the 350Z's 309bhp – sounds brutal when challenged, revs cleanly and delivers 0-60mph in 5.5 seconds in six-speed manual form, yet feels refined and muted on a high-speed motorway dash.

But it's hard work in traffic, with its heavy clutch even though the muscular low-down grunt of the V6

NISSAN 370Z ROADSTER PRICE £31,250 FACT FILE

Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★
Value:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★
Road tax:	£950/year
Best rival:	Porsche Boxster

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■ MOTORLINE	Tunbridge Wells 0844 371 7952 Dartford 0844 371 7946

minimises gearchanging; the seven-speed auto option (from £35,750) might be preferable if you want more all-round ability.

However, the manual does have Synchro Rev Control (SRC), described as a "fully synchronised down/up shift rev control system allowing

drivers of any skill level to experience perfectly smooth gear shifts every time."

It can be switched off though if, like me, you prefer to blip the throttle on the down changes.

Direct steering and a balanced rear-driven chassis make it a real en-

thusiast's croptop and fantastic value against obvious rivals like the Audi TT, BMW Z4 and Porsche Boxster.

And while the Nissan doesn't have the same badge cachet, it need not doff its cap here on quality and finish.

That includes the fast-folding canvas roof; yes, folding hard tops may be the vogue now, but they add to cost, usually eat into precious coupé boot space and, some might say, mar the classic open-top sports car heritage.

That heritage doesn't come cheap in another way though: enthusiastic driving will take you well below the car's official average of 25mpg and it sits in the highest category (£950) for road tax due to its 262g/km of CO2 emissions – more than 2.5 times the 99g/km that rates exemption from that duty.

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*Price shown is for GEN-2 ecologic 1.6 GLS MT; manufacturer's list price £10,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. Model shown/specified is GEN-2 ecologic GSX MT; manufacturer's list price £11,195 excluding metallic paint which is an option at £365. On the road price includes VAT, delivery, number plates, 12 months' road fund licence and first registration fee. GEN-2 ecologic models with automatic transmission are registered by Proton prior to conversion. *Free leather offer ends 30th June 2011 and is available on GEN-2 GSX models only. Available at participating dealers only and excludes Motability and Fleet sales. †Warranty is subject to maintenance in accordance with manufacturer's schedules 3 year or 60,000 miles. Terms and conditions apply. †LPG prices taken from www.petrilprices.com - national LPG average on the 25th March 2011.

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**2003/03 PLATE
PEUGEOT 206CC
2.0 SE
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In Metallic midnight Black with contrasting full back leather interior air con electric windows remote control central locking front fog lights alloys multiple airbag protection system electric power roof c/d in car entertainment system multi function steering wheel electric adjustable door mirrors power steering drivers seat height adjustment **£3,995**



**2004/04 PLATE
FORD FIESTA
1.4i
3 DOOR**

In starburst metallic with contrasting black cloth interior air con electric windows multiple airbag protection system alloy wheels remote control central locking heated front screen drivers seat height adjustment front fog lights electric adjustable door mirrors c/d in car entertainment and good value for money at only **£3,995**



**2003/03 PLATE
MERCEDES A160
1.6i
5 DOOR**

In Royal metallic with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning alloy wheels multiple airbag protection system c/d in car entertainment system electric adjustable door mirrors remote control central locking alloy wheels, history would make a good family car and represents great value for money at only **£3,995**



**2005/05 PLATE
PEUGEOT 407
DIESEL 2.0HDI S
4 DOOR**

In ice blue metallic with contrasting dark grey interior 6 speed gearbox electric windows air conditioning remote control central locking c/d in car entertainment system front fog lights multiple airbag protection system electric adjustable door mirrors drivers seat height adjustment **£4,495**



**2003/53 PLATE
MERCEDES
CLK270 CDI
AVANTGARDE
AUTO
3 DOOR**

In Metallic slate Blue with contrasting Grey cloth interior air con alloys electric windows front fog lights auto lights auto wipers cruise control headlight wash remote control central locking drivers and passengers seat height adjustment c/d in-car entertainment system airbags Multifunction steering wheel at only **£6,495**



**2003/03 PLATE
MAZDA PREMACY
2.0 SPORT
5 DOOR**

In turquoise blue metallic with contrasting charcoal grey interior-electric windows-remote control central locking-large electric sunroof-alloy wheels-front fog lights-c/d in-car entertainment system-electric adjustable door mirrors-front center armrest-rear heat repellent privacy glass-climate control-drivers seat height adjustment **£3,995**



**2007/07 PLATE
FORD FOCUS 1.6
ZETEC CLIMATE
5 DOOR**

In ocean blue metallic with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning alloy wheels remote control central locking electric windows front fog lights drivers seat height adjustment c/d in car entertainment system multiple airbag protection system electric adjustable door mirrors this car is one owner from new with a full service history **£6,495**



**2003/03 PLATE
TOYOTA COROLLA
1.4 VVTi
5 DOOR**

In charcoal metallic grey with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows alloy wheels-c/d in car entertainment system remote control central locking electric adjustable door mirrors multiple airbag protection system onboard trip computer drivers seat height adjustment this car is offered with a full service history **£3,995**



**2005/05 PLATE
RENAULT
MEGANE 1.6
DYNAMIQUE
4 DOOR**

In metallic lighting red with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows multiple airbag protection system drivers seat height adjustment remote control central locking front fog lights alloy wheels c/d in car entertainment system rear sun blinds this car is offered with only 47,000 miles from new and a full service history **£3,995**



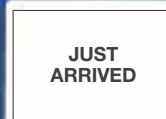
**2002/02 PLATE
VOLKSWAGEN
PASSAT 2.0 SE
AUTO
4 DOOR**

In metallic charcoal grey with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning-electric windows-remote control central locking-alloy wheels-c/d in-car entertainment system-electric adjustable door mirrors-drivers seat height adjustment-multiple airbag protection system-this car offers great value for money **£3,495**



**2006/56 PLATE
VAUXHALL ASTRA
1.6 SX
5 DOOR**

In metallic starburst silver with contrasting charcoal cloth interior air conditioning electric windows remote control central locking alloy wheels multifunction steering wheel electric adjustable door mirrors multiple airbag protection system-c/d in car entertainment system front fog lights drivers seat height adjustment **£5,495**



**2006/06 PLATE
FORD MONDEO
1.8 LX
5 DOOR**

In Metallic midnight black with contrasting black cloth interior air conditioning electric windows remote control central locking drivers seat height adjustment c/d in car entertainment system multiple airbag protection system this car is offered with a full service history, would make a great family car and is sensibly priced at only **£3,995**

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P REG/1997 MAZDA 323 1.5 LXI 5 DOOR in metallic red-alloy wheels-power steering-electric windows-this car has is mot and is good value for money at only **£695**
1999/1 PLATE LANDROVER FREELANDER 1.8 XEI 3 DOOR in white grey cloth interior sunroof power steering c/d in car entertainment system central locking detachable hardtop alloys elec windows in great condition only 69,000 miles long mot and tax **£1,995**
2001/51 PLATE MAZDA 626 SPORT 4 DOOR SALOON in metallic midnight black with contrasting grey cloth interior electric windows elec sunroof alloys c/d player remote control central locking this car has a new mot, long tax it's very clean and offers **£1,495**
2003/03 PLATE VAUXHALL ASTRA CLUB 1.6 ESTATE in metallic silver with contrasting black cloth interior electric windows c/d player this car has a mot and tax it's very clean and offers great value for money at only **£1,995**
2001/X REG FORD MONDEO VERONA 1.8 5 DOOR in metallic forest green with contrasting charcoal interior air conditioning alloy wheels remote control central locking electric windows in car entertainment system long mot sensibly priced at only **£995**
1998/ R REG VAUXHALL ASTRA 1.6 ACTIVE 5 DOOR AUTO in cherry red with contrasting grey cloth interior power steering electric windows-alloy wheels central locking only 66,000 miles from new taxed and mot great value for money at only **£795**



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SAAB 9-5 2.2 TiD Vector, 5 Doors, Automatic, Estate, Diesel, 2004 04 Reg, 75,195 miles, Metallic SILVER, 3 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Elec windows, Anti theft system, Elec mirrors, Air con, Radio/Cassette, Alarm, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Solid Paint, Partial leather seat trim, Central locking, Computer, Full Service History, Metallic paintwork, Insurance Group: 13 **£6,195**

2005 05 Reg SAAB 9-5 2.3HOT Aero, 5 Doors, Manual, Estate, Petrol, 91,350 miles, Metallic silver, 2 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Roof rails, Radio/Cassette, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Traction control, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Elec door mirrors/windows, PAS, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Leather seat trim, Insurance Group: 17 **£5,995**

SAAB 9-5 2.0T Vector, 4 Doors, Manual, Saloon, Petrol, 2003 03 Reg, 93,137 miles, Metallic Grey, 4 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Cruise control, Front armrest, Headlight washers, Folding rear seats, Passenger airbag, Rear armrest, Radio/Cassette, Side airbags, Radio/CD, Rear headrests, Sports seats, Traction control, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Steering wheel rake adjustment, 3x3 point rear seat belts, Alarm, Rear electric windows, Remote central locking, Steering wheel reach adjustment, Trip computer, Insurance Group: 13E **£3,495**

OTHER MAKES

VOLKSWAGEN Polo 1.4 SE, 3 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2001 Y Reg, 48,812 miles, Black, 4 Owners. ABS, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Electric sunroof, Folding rear seats, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Rear headrests, Service indicator, Space saver spare wheel, Body coloured bumpers, Drivers airbag, Electric door mirrors, Front electric windows, Front fog lights, Front head restraints, Heated door mirrors, Height adjustable drivers seat, Isofix child seat anchor points, PAS, Rear wiper, Steering wheel rake adjustment, Insurance Group: 7 **£2,595**

2000 W Reg PEUGEOT 306 1.6 Meridian, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 53,164 miles, Metallic RED, 2 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Radio/CD, Sports seats, Audio remote control, Body coloured bumpers, Elec mirrors/windows, PAS, Remote central locking, Trip computer, Insurance Group: 5E **£1,750**

NISSAN Primera 2.0 16v SE, 5 Doors, Manual, Hatchback, Petrol, 2000 X Reg, 156,076 miles, Metallic BLUE, 5 Owners. ABS, Air conditioning, Alloy wheels, Central locking, Immobiliser, Passenger airbag, Radio/Cassette, Alarm, Body coloured bumpers, Elec door mirrors/windows, Heated door mirrors, PAS, Trip computer, Climate Control, Metallic paintwork, Remote locking, Audio remote control, Insurance Group: 13E **£1,395**

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• 58 2008 SEAT Ibiza 1.4 Sport 3-door Hatchback, 43,000 miles, Emocion
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• 58 2008 Mercedes B Class B150 Sport 5-door MPV, 15,500 miles, Silver,
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• 57 2008 Ford Ka 1.3 Zetec Climate 3-door Hatchback, 25,700 miles, Ocean
Blue £5,495

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159, 3.2 V6 JTS Q4 LUSSO, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player climate control electric windows body coloured bumpers height adj drivers seat, black, 30376 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 2.4 JDTM LUSSO, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote audio controls, black, 28347 miles, £11000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

159, 1.9 JDTM 16v LUSSO, 2008, abs brakes air con alloys cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking remote audio controls, alfa red, 70000 miles, £9000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRERA, 2.4 JDTM SV, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel electric windows remote audio controls, silver, 28347 miles, £13000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

BRERA, 2.4 JDTM SV, 2007, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player cruise control diesel multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote audio controls, silver, 28347 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

AUDI

A3, SE FSI, 2006, air conditioning alarm fitted cd player central locking electric windows full service history metallic paint multiple airbags remote central locking, mauve met, 24500 miles, £9500, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

A3, sport tdi, 2005, abs brakes alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering single cd sports seats tinted glass trip computer remote central locking multi functional tunepoint (i-pod and mp3 connection) remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, atral silver, 20490 miles, £11000, Maidstone, 08448 759296 (TRADE)

A4, S LINE, 2009, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights full service history heated seats immobiliser metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid sports seats tinted glass trip computer twin airbags xenon headlamps remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, silver, 21500 miles, £22000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A4, FSI S Line Multitronic, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player central locking climate control drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid, blue, 47365 miles, £13500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A5, Coupe 3.0 Tdi Quattro Sport, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, silver, 22812 miles, £25000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A5, Coupe 3.0 Tdi Quattro Sport, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column height adj drivers seat, silver, 22812 miles, £25000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

A6, 1.9 Tdi 130 SE, 2005, blue, 122000 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A6, 2.7T QUATTRO SPORT, 2002, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys cd player central locking cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights metallic paint leather interior multiple airbags power steering sports seats tinted glass traction control trip computer roof bars adjustable steering column front armrest body coloured bumpers lumbar support height adj drivers seat, blue, 78000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

A6, 2.7 TDI S-LINE MULTITRONIC, 2006, quartz, 62000 miles, £13000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Q7, TDI QUATTRO 240 S-LINE, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic cd player central locking climate control cruise control diesel drivers airbag isofix child seat points auto headlights and wipers remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers lumbar support 3x3 point heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat, grey, 14033 miles, £35000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Q7, 3.0 Tdi Se Tiptronic, 2008, abs brakes automatic transmission cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows multiple airbags power steering trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, black, 16588 miles, £27000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, 2.0T FSI, 2006, silver, 63000 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

TT, 1.8 T Quattro, 2001, abs brakes alarm fitted alloy wheels electric windows front fog lights half leather trim heated seats immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering sports seats traction control trip computer remote central locking isofix child seat points adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, silver, 25000 miles, £9500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

CHEVROLET

CAPTIVA, 2.0 VCDi LTX 7 SEATS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, tbc, 64000 miles, £14000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

TACUMA, 1.6 SX, 2006, abs brakes cd player electric windows front fog lights immobiliser metallic paint power steering remote central locking, blue, 30509 miles, £3000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CAPTIVA, 2.0 VCDi LTX 7 SEATS, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels cd player diesel electric windows front fog lights immobiliser over steering remote central locking remote audio controls adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat, tbc, 64000 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, POP, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning electric windows immobiliser power steering, minimal grey, 30780 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, MULTIJET POP, 2009, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel electric windows power steering, silver, 5532 miles, £9000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

500, 1.2 LOUNGE, 2009, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 1000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

BRAVO, DYNAMIC ECO, 2010, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel electric windows power steering, black, 3000 miles, £15000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE) Bravo, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £10000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 MULTIJET ELEGANZA, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, grey, 48073 miles, £5000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

CROMA, 1.9 MULTIJET ELEGANZA, 2006, abs brakes alloy wheels cd player climate control diesel electric windows immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering remote central locking, grey, 48073 miles, £5000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

DOBLO, Multijet, 2010, abs brakes cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows, beige, 5736 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.3 MULTIJET FAMILY - 7 SEATER, 2008, abs brakes cd player diesel electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover trip computer twin airbags remote central locking, rumba red, 25991 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

DOBLO, 1.3 Multijet Active, 2007, abs brakes electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering split folding rear seats trip computer remote central locking adjustable steering column front armrest rear headrests 3x3 point rear seat belts height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, metallic bolero red, 21000 miles, £5000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FIORINO, 1.3 16v MULTIJET**Call Waheeda 07825 670994, 2010, cd player, white, 10 miles, £7500, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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GRANDE PUNTO, 2009, bluetooth car kit cd player electric windows full service history immobiliser metallic paint multiple airbags power steering tonneau cover trip computer front passenger air bag deactivation switch remote central locking remote audio controls, black, 1000 miles, £7000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

GRANDE PUNTO, 2007, abs brakes alloys electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering split adjustable steering column body 3x3 point height adj drivers seat, red, 27000 miles, £4000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, black, 55 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, red, 55 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

IDEA, 1.4, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser metallic paint, blue, 55 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, Multijet Eleganza, 2008, abs brakes air conditioning alloys cd player central locking diesel drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser power steering remote central locking, blue, 15000 miles, £8000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

Multipla, 2.0, 2008, abs brakes cd player central locking drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats immobiliser, blue, 55 miles, £15000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

MULTIPLA, Multijet Dynamic Plus, 2010, abs brakes cd central locking drivers airbag electric windows immobiliser multiple airbags power steering, blue, 10 miles, £14500, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PANDA, 1.1 ACTIVE, 2008, cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering tonneau cover twin airbags, yellow, 7161 miles, £4000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.1 Active Eco, 2010, abs brakes central locking electric windows twin airbags front passenger air bag deactivation switch isofix child seat points adjustable steering column, white, 50 miles, £6000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

PUNTO, 1.2 Active, 2003, cd player central locking electric windows immobiliser power steering metallic crystal green, 52008 miles, £2600, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

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SCUDO, Combi 9 Seat LWB A/C METALLIC REAR PARK, 2010, air conditioning cd player diesel drivers airbag electric windows metallic paint power fold mirrors power steering remote central locking, met grey, 100 miles, £15400, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

SCUDO, 1.6 COMFORT 90 L1Call Waheeda 07825670994, 2010, abs brakes cd player diesel immobiliser power steering side load door remote central locking, blue, 18000 miles, £8000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

LAND ROVER

DISCOVERY, 2.7TD V6 SE, 2006, 4x4 abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission central locking climate control cruise control diesel electric windows immobiliser multi cd player multiple airbags power steering satellite navigation tinted glass traction control trip computer adjustable steering column lumbar support height adj drivers seat, silver, 48721 miles, £21495, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

DISCOVERY, 2.7 TDV6 XS, 2008, abs brakes alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control front fog lights metallic paint multiple airbags power steering traction control remote central locking remote audio controls body coloured bumpers, black, 27000 miles, £25000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2008, alarm fitted alloy wheels bluetooth car kit cruise control drivers airbag electric windows front fog lights heated seats metallic paint multi cd player leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation split folding rear seats trip computer xenon headlamps remote central locking isofix child seat points remote audio controls electric sunroof adjustable steering column body coloured bumpers rear armrest rear headrests heated door mirrors height adj drivers seat space saver spare wheel, blue, 21440 miles, £20000, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE)

FREELANDER, 2003, abs brakes air conditioning alloy wheels electric windows power steering, silver, 52300 miles, £4500, Canterbury, 0844 856 4494 (TRADE) Range Rover, 2009, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic cd player central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid, black, 11653 miles, £42000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

RANGE ROVER, 2002, abs brakes air con alarm fitted alloys automatic transmission central locking climate control cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, orange, 32000 miles, £14000, Ramsgate, 0844 856 4496 (TRADE)

LEXUS

GS, 300 SE Auto, 2006, abs brakes air conditioning alarm fitted alloy wheels automatic transmission cd player cruise control drivers airbag electric windows heated seats immobiliser leather interior multiple airbags power fold mirrors power steering reverse parking aid satellite navigation, silver, 32561 miles, £13000, Ashford, 0844 826 5918 (TRADE)

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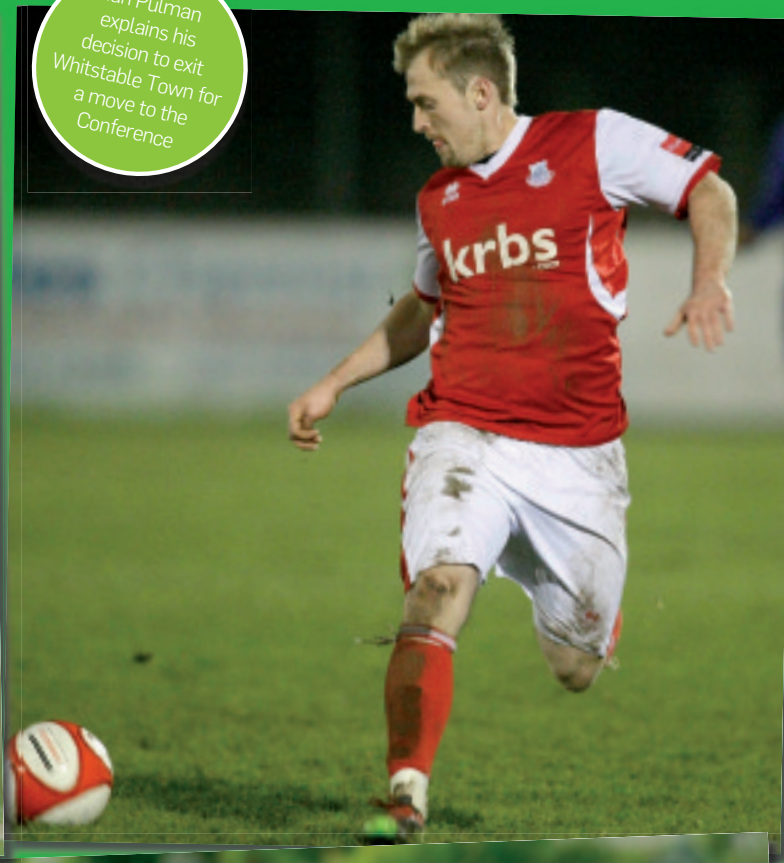
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